

GOODIES have arrived. Winnie, not the storm, but the Pooh, delights this child.

■ Lifestyle / Cl

Mother of all bridal fairs stars 13 designers at NBC Tent.



Sunday, December 5, 2004: '★ポ" 130 pages # 18 sections / Vol. 19

Catherine Zetalones: I'm the new Imelda Marcos

■News/A2

Mike A. on Abadia's allegation: Cock and bull story

■ News / A2

Maynilad water rates up by 50% effective January 2005

Check out 1,000 high-end job vacancies



A WAR with no quarter.

Corpus: All-out war

This was the pledge made by retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus yesterday when asked by the Inquires how he planned to stamp out illegal logging in the country in the wake of the massive floods in Luzon that killed hundreds of people and ravaged agricultural farms.

even against the powerful

Corpus said the government was ready not

website: www.lnq7.not

GMA suspends all logging

Illegal loggers likened to terrorists

By Julie Labog-Javellana, Cynthia D. Balana and Michael Lim Ubac

LUMPING illegal loggers together with terrorists and drug dealers, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered all logging activity in the country suspended after massive floods in Luzon rampant blamed on tree-felling left over 1,000 people dead or missing.

Ms Arroyo, in a statement released by Malacañang yesterday, also urged Congress to amend the environmental laws and impose harsher penalties on illegal loggers and corrupt officials in cahoots with them.

The President ordered the suspension of logging permits all over the country," Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman: said in an interview aired on ANU television.

ids Arroyo's own statement as released by the Palace did not mention any order to suspend all Jogging activity in the country.

Sen. Richard Gordon has a novel idea. He told the Inquirea that, in the spirit of bayanihan and volunteerism, he was filing a bill in the Senate that would enlist prisoners who were not hardened criminals to plant trees as part of the reforestation

THE SUN also rises the morning after the storms had passed, and Danig Reyes, a grade school teacher of Dugyan Primary School Umiray, Aurora province, begins rebuilding his home in Barangay South Poblacion, Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, with the very logs that had rushed down his home to destruction. Gabaldon borders Aurora.

No more homes to return to, residents stream out of town

By Tonette Orejas

PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE SUN finally shone yesterday on the still isolated town of Dingalan in Aurora, allowing its stricken residents to begin an exodus to safe refuge.

been streaming out on foot, head-

ing to Cabanatuan City, Manila, or wherever they have relatives," Board Member Sherwin Taay told the PDI Central Luzon Desk by phone on reaching Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, near the boundary of Dingalan before noon.

It was the first call Tany had "Many of my constituents have made since Tuesday, when power was cut in Dingalan and the bat-

sole means of communication in town-could not be recharged. Yesterday, phone batteries were being charged through a generator available in Gabaldon, a two-hour walk west

The improved weather also helped military cargo planes, he-

of Dingalan.

teries of mobile phones—now the licopters and seacraft reach thousands cut off by landslides and floods. But supplies were short and fear of disease was spread-

> A Navy vessel was en route to the port of nearby Infanta Friday night to deliver earth-moving equipment to that town, and also to Real and General Nakar, the

counted for most of the casualties, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said in Manila.

He said this would speed up the search for the missing and clear roads blocked by landslides. Reuters quoted the military as saying that it would take at least a

NO MORE/ AR

STORIES FROM THE DEPTHS

How 'ro-ro' ship brought 1st batch of relief goods

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luson Bureau

INFANTA, Quezon-When the Grandstar 2 sailed yesterday from the port of Atimonan, Quezon, toward the calamitystricken northern part of the province, it was for a humanitarian reason—to

transport relief goods. The voyage of mercy of the roll-on roll-off (ro-ro) vessel ended at the Real town port in Barangay Ungos, where a hungry crowd mer the trucks that it disgorged. According to witnesses, a riot for the food could have broken out were it not for the presence of Army troops and members of the 17 groups that joined the journey on Lamon Bay.

Local government officials led by Mayor Grace America distributed the precious cargo to the calamity victims in

front of the Infanta cathedral. It was the first batch of relief goods from the private sector to reach the town, the mayor said. 'Thank you. This Is like manna from heaven," she told the representatives of the donor groups.

The voyage of merry was triggered by a plea sired Priday morning by Rep. Proceso Alcala (Quezon, 2nd district) over a cable TV program in Lucena City that was "heard" as far away as Hong Kong.

Mindful of the swell of support for the relief campaign being conducted by variPDI Southern Luxon Bureau REAL, Quezon-The air smelled of death. Maribeth and Rita, both nine months pregnant, walked slowly through the muddy water and debris. Not because they were due to give birth

They walked

slowly to safety,

avoiding bodies

along the way

By Romy Ponte

want to step on floating bodies. Together with their family, the two left Barangay Kiloloron which was near the sea and headed for Barangay Tanauan, hoping to escape the rampaging mudslides brought by Tropical Depression "Winnie."

any day now, but because they did not

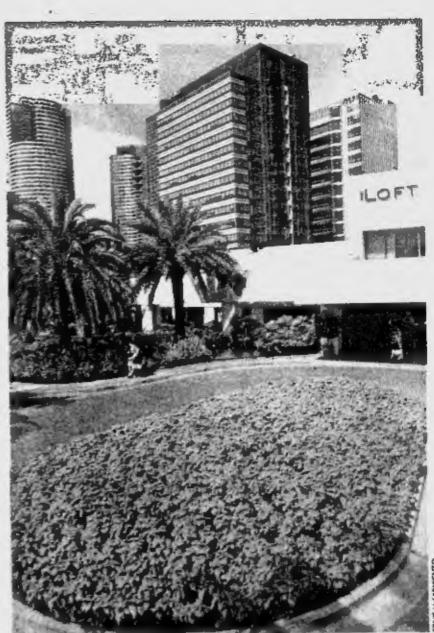
"Winnie" had caught everyone by surprise. The day started out sunny and then it started to rain; it never stopped.

At 6:30 p.m. that Monday, Maribeth Amida Canales noticed that the spring near her house in Barangay Kiloloron was rising steadily.

Maribeth went to an uncie's house nearby, but the waters there had swelled just the same. She tried to open the door and immediately, she was swept away by rushing mud, twigs and rocks.

"I clung to a tree branch which was stuck in the corner of the house. I heard a little boy cry for help. It was my 9-year old Christian. I thought he was at his grandparents' house. I managed to grab his hands and held him tightly," Maribeth told the laquiter.

They decided to go to the only struc-



BLOOMING RED: Encircle the color of the season—red, and its flower—the poinsettia. Put them together equals a traffic-stopping, head-turning,

Commission of the Commission o

Sex high point of most women's days



WASHINGTON—Having sex is the high point of most women's days, while commuting is the low point. Also, most women like being with their kids less than they will admit, according to a study published last week.

While the results may not appear startling, the method used to assess mood represents a new and more accurate way of figuring out how happy people are, researchers report in Priday's issue of the Journal Science.

They propose that their tool could be used to plan social policy. "Current measures of well-being

ture left standing—the Kiloloron school and quality of life need to be signifiheartworming visual feast fronting The Loft at Rockwell, Makati City, building which was located near the

WEATHER FORECAST

) RECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience receiving audy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated raiseshowers source: neseeth

MINERS BY CHONA GALANG, FOR BESCARCH/12/84/84

Cloudy with Rains Partly Cloudy

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

Parity Cloudy Partily Cloudy

Water rates up 50%

OVERNMENT regulators have allowed the financially ail- lad's rates, calling it "unjustified, ig water concessionaire, Maynilad Water Services, to rarge its 5.2 million customers an increased rate of P30.19 er cubic meter, a 50 percent increase from the present tarf of P19.92 per cubic meter, beginning in the new year.

The increase was approved in a solution last week by the etropolitan Waterworks and Sewage System Regulatory Office.

MWSS administrator Orlando undrade said the tariff rate adstment was part of the recomendations made by the receiver spointed by the Quezon City reonal court hearing the rehabilition case of Maynilad.

Maynilad needs the new tariff tes to improve its financial viabiliand regain the trust of investors, cording to the rehabilitation plan pepted by the court and which is ring reviewed by the receiver.

An MWSS official earlier said e regulatory body had no toice but to implement whatevthe court approves to ensure e rehabilitation of Maynilad

which operates Manila's west zone concession.

Land December of the observation of the second

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who during the election campaign earlier this year prevailed on the water concessionaires to hold off any rate increases, conceded last month the inevitability of water rate increases this Christmas.

Manila Water, the east zone concessionaire, has proposed an increase of P2.18 per cubic meter in its rates which it intends to implement in January. The proposal is still being assessed by regulators. MWSS and Maynilad officials

have until Dec. 15 to conduct public hearings on the new approved tariff rates for Maynilad. The Water for the People Net-

work coalition earlier deplored the planned increase in Mayni-

unacceptable and immoral."

"Maynilad has no right to implement a rate increase. First, because it owes around P7.45 billion in unauthorized collection of foreign currency differential adjustment (FCDA) and accelerated extraordinary price adjustment (AEPA). Second, it has consistently failed to meet its service performance commitments," said the Ibon Databank in a statement.

The PCDA allows the two water concessionaires to recover losses from the peso's depreciation as it pays off dollar-denominated concession fees to the MWSS and for other loans they acquired to fund service expansion and improvement of pipelines. It is computed quarterly depending on the rate of peso depreciation against the US dollar.

Customers' water bills reflect the basic charge, currency adjustment and the environment and sewerage charges.

The Water for the People Ner-

work recently filed a comment on the Maynilad rehabilitation plan with the Quezon City court asking the court to deny the rate increase petition.

It cited, among other reasons, that the plan would violate the constitutional limit on foreign ownership of public utilities, noting that foreign equity in Maynilad would exceed 40 percent un-

It also said the plan did not present a viable solution to Maynilad's financial losses, even as it called for drastic increases in tariff rates and down-scaled performance targets.

The coalition urged the court to junk the rehabilitation proposal and reiterated its demand for "an immediate and complete government takeover of Maynilad while ensuring that Benpres and Suez-Maynilad's owners-pay for all their financial obligations to government and customers." Christine Gaylican



PRINCE CHARMING

President Macapagal-Arroyo beams as she receives Britain's Prince Andrew in Malacañang yesterday. The Duke of York was here on a three-day visit to promote British trade and investment relations with the Philippines.

Stop Iraq-bound OFWs, DOLE urged

MOURDOW

y Cynthia D. Balana

NO CONGRESSIONAL leaders sterday asked the Department of ibor and Employment to block the heduled departure for Iraq of me 700 overseas Filipino workers is week and sought the filing of sarges against their recruiters.

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao erry Salapuddin of Basilan and unboanga del Sur Rep. Roseller uinaga, chair of the House comittee on labor and employment, id the workers' departure violates e deployment ban imposed by alacañang and could pose anothserious problem for the governent which was still working for the release of abducted Filipino accountant Roberto Tarongoy in Iraq.

Salapuddin urged the workers to abort their departure, saying no one could guarantee their safety in Iraq.

Barinaga said the labor department should explain to the OFWs the risk they would face in that troubled country.

"We urge our OFWs to cooperate with the Arroyo government since it is for their safety and welfare that we have imposed a deployment ban on Iraq," Barinaga said.

He said the DOLE should also blacklist the recruitment agencies which processed the working papers of the OFWs despite the de-

"It is lamentable that despite what happened to Angelo de la Cruz, Angelito Nayan and Tarongoy, our OFWs and recruitment agencies have not learned their lesson. These recruitment companies should be punished for their uncaring attitude to our OFWs," Barinaga said.

Salapuddin lamented that recruiters never learned their lesson as they continued to send OFWs to troubled countries and rake in huge profits at their expense.

'If something goes wrong, the government is left to clean up the mess. Recruiters who transgress the Arroyo government deployment ban must not only be black-

ialeistartsjat 8:30) AM SHARP!

INSPECTION DATES:

DECEMBER 8, 9, & 10, 2004

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, & FRIGAY)

REGISTRATION BATES:

DECEMBER 8, to 12, 2004

WEDNESDAY, TO SUNDAY)

listed, but penalized and charged," Salapuddin said.

He said the government must explore and negotiate the opening of new labor markets for OFWs in Libya and other countries.

"The revealing and undeniable truth is our labor force needs jobs which our government is trying its best to provide locally. Many people are poor and hungry. In desperation, OFWs would prefer to take a job with risks abroad than stay bungry and jobless in our courary," he said.

Earlier, it was reported that the OFWs were just awaiting their visas so they could leave this week for Iraq, where they will work in the US military's Camp Anaconda.

Abadia rap against him a 'cock and bull' story, says First Gentleman

By Armand N. Nocum

A "COCK and bull story" was First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo's reaction to accusations that he had influenced Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo into reviving graft charges against former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lisan-

Arroyo, who returned from the United States yesterday, threatened to sue Abadia and this reporter for the article that came out in the Dec. 2, 2004, issue of the INQUIRER.

"It's so unfair. You know that that story is a cock and buil story and you still wrote about it," he said.

"I cannot influence the Ombudsman. I do not even know Garcia. Why will I even do that? That guy (Abadia) is crazy," Arrovo said.

He said Abadia should "stop blaming others who know nothing of the personal affairs of military officers" and to face the charges against him like a true gentleman.

Marcelo earlier this week ordered graft charges filed against Abadia for allegedly amassing P11 million in unexplained wealth during his term as AFP chief of staff from 1991 to 1993.

Abadia alleged in the INQUIRER report that Arroyo and Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes had influenced the Ombudsman into reviving the 11-year-old case against him to deflect attention from the ongoing investigation of former AFP comperoller Maj.

Gen. Carlos Garcia. He claimed they were doing so for fear that Reyes, AFP chief of staff when Garcia was comptroller, would be dragged into the case of Garcia, who is being investigated for allegedly amassing P143 million in ill-gotten wealth.

Abadia alleged that Arroyo

was very close to Marcelo, having been a partner in the Carpin Villaraza Cruz law offices, the First Couple's lawyers.

They are putting me on the hot seat to cover up the Garcia issue," said Abadia.

Reyes and Marcelo, through Ombudsman spokesperson Ernesto Nocos, both denied Abadia's allegation.

Failing to contact Arroyo last Wednesday, the Inquirer called his brother, Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, The latter said Abadia had dreamed up the issue.

The Negros congressman said his brother did not meddle in the affairs of government and that "the President wants the case on Garcia to be pursued to the full

extent of the law." In a press statement issued by his office yesterday, Mike Arroyo said "it [served him] no purpose" to revive the graft case against

"These accusations are baseless and irresponsible. The Ombudsman is a constitutional body with a clear mandate. It cannot be dictated [upon] by any person to file a case against anyone," he said.

Arroyo said he does not interfere with the affairs of the government run by his wife, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said he was "focusing time and effort on charitable missions that will address the plight of the

Arroyo has just returned from a trip to the US on business for his charity work. He said he was there to ask the Filipino community to raise money and to solicit medical equipment for the Philippine General Hospital, the Na-

tional Kidney Institute, the Ospital ng Maynila, the Malacañang Clinic and other health institutions. With a report from Juliet Labox-Javellana

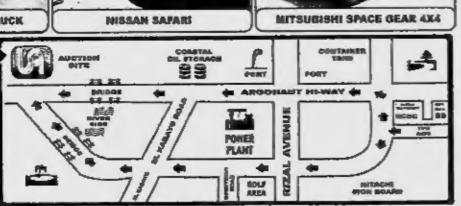
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team revamp on hold By G. Cabacungan

Economic

MALACAÑANG has reportedly put on hold the planned revamp of the government's top economic team in the wake of the calamities that have hir the country and pressing business matters that need to be tackied immediately.

Malacañang source said President Macapagal-Arroyo had prevailed upon Secretary Energy

Vince Perez and Finance Secretary Junnita Amatong, the two economic managers most bruited about to be resigned from the Cabinet, to stay.

The source said Perez had handed his irrevocable resignation to the President a few weeks ago but the President did not accept his resignation. Perez did not reply to the INQUIRER'S calls.

The source said the last thing the President needed was a change at the Department of Energy which is overseeing the sale of the P100 billion worth of assets of National Power Corp.

The source said the President had also asked Amatong to postpone her plans to retire to the first quarter of next year in view of the immediate concerns on getting Congress to approve new taxes as well as convincing major credit rating agencies to maintain the counmy's credit rating

Militiamen quit en masse

MIDSAYAR North Cotabato --Low pay and assignments outside their villages here prompted about 40 paramilitary troops to resign en masse.

Mateo Liboon, 46, a leader of the local Civilian Armed Porces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), led about 40 militiamen in turning over the Garand and M-14 rifles issued to them to officials of the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade.

Each militlaman receives a monthly allowance of P1,800 for 15 days of service as village defenders.

"But this is not enough and we were told a pay hike was out of the question," said Liboon, a farmer and father of six children

"We are deployed in other villages and towns for 15 days and the next 15 days are slated for our farm work," he said.

Liboon said militiamen assigned to remote viliages were not provided with travel allowances. "We spend our own money for food and travel," he said.

The sad thing, he said, was he could not leave his post in nearby towns if lawless elements attacked his own village.

"Sadly, we are supposed to be village defenders but we cannot defend our own barangay when it is harassed because we are deplayed somewhere else," Liboon said. Edwin C. Pernandes, PDI Mindanao Rumonu











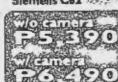












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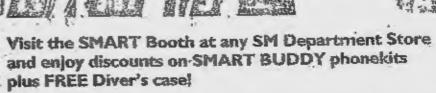




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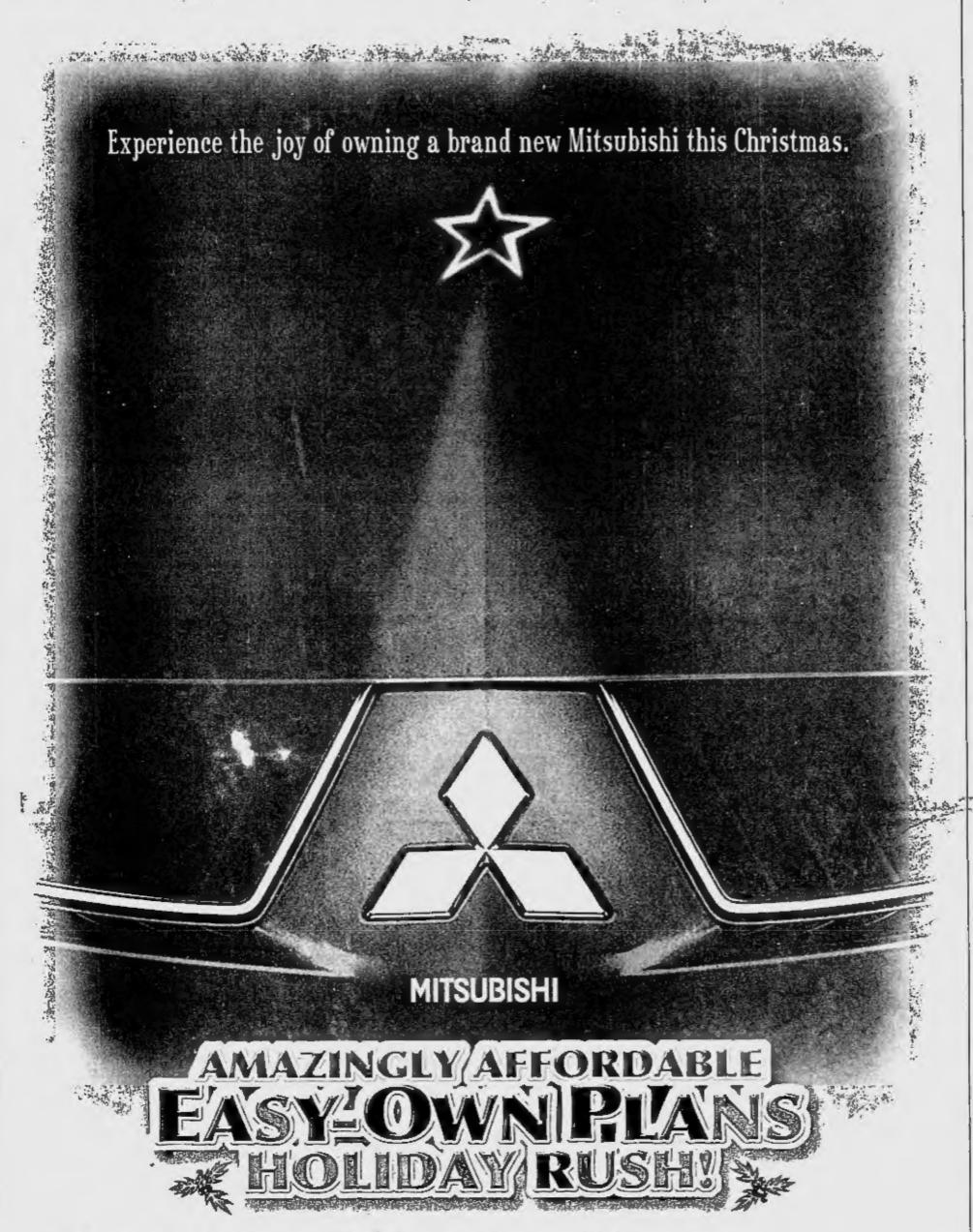
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After students, teachers to be tested for illegal drug use



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Lancer GLS CVT	758,000	68,700	31,846	22,632	18,149	15,917	14,437
Lancer MX CVT	838,000	85,700	35,207	25,020	20,065	17,597	15,961
Adventure GL (Del)	675,000	81,250	28,359	20,154	16,162	14,174	12,856
Adventure GLX (Gas)	700,000	85,000	29,409	20,900	16,760	14,699	13,332
Adventure GLX (Dal)	740,000	58,000	31,090	22,094	17,718	15,539	14,094
Adventure GLS Sport M/T (Gos)	795,000	79,250	33,400	23,737	19,035	16,694	15,142
Adventure GLB Sport A/T (Gas)	848,000	107,200	35,627	25,319	20,304	17,807	16,151
Adventure GLS Sport (Dal)	805,000	60,750	33,821	24,035	19,276	16,804	15,332
Adventure GLS Sport M/T Lmtd. Ed. (Gas)	835,000	105,250	35,081	24,931	19,993	17,534	15,904
Adventure GLS Sport A/T Lmtd. Ed. (Gas)	885,000	113,200	37,308	20,513	21,262	18,647	16,913
Adventure GLS Sport Lmtd. Ed. (Del.)	845,000	106,750	35,501	25,229	20,232	17,744	16,094
Adventure Grand Sport (Dat)	935,000	105,250	39,282	27,917	22,387	10,634	17,808
Adventure Grand Sport A/T (Gas)	980,000	127,000	41,173	29,260	23,465	20,579	18,665
L200 Strade A/T	1,230,000	150,000	50,692	38,028	28,890	25,337	23,197
Space Gear 2.4 A/T Standard (Gas)	1,180,000	87,000	48,631	34,561	27,715	24,307	22,254
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By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

teachers will have take with their pupils.

Secretary Florencip Abad has created committee in the De partment of Education tion to draft the guide: lines for the random drug tests to be conducted on the halfmillion public school teachers and administrative employees.

Abad said the guidelines should be ready by January.

The DepEd started randomly testing students for drug use in public and private high schools early this year.

Tests conducted in Metro Manila and Region XI confirmed that some high school students used illegal drugs.

Counseling

The students for to be using methan phetamine chloride or shabu a dismissed, hower dergo counseling

Republic Act N 9165, or the Dange ous Drugs Act 2002, mandates rar dom drug tests on all and employees. Dangerous

Drugs Board set the guidelines to be followed by all national and local government agencies, including the police and military, & as well as schools and universities in the conduct of the drug-tests. With half a million employees, the Dep-Ed has the biggest

erriment agencies. Abad named Undersecretaries mon Bacani and Jose Luis Gascon to head the committee that would draft the DepEd's guidelines.

manpower of all gov-

Mandatory

Committee members are Director Thelma Santos of the DepEd's health and nutrition division, and representatives of the DepEd employees union, personnel department teachers association.

According to the DDB, all government employees regardless of position must be tested.

Those who test positive in the first "screening" would undergo a second "confirmatory" test.

An employee confirmed to be a drug user would not immediately be reprimanded but would be made to undergo six months of rehabilitation or counseling, depending on the degree of drug use.

If the employee still tests positive after rehabilitation, he would either be suspended or dismissed.

Confidential

The test results should remain confidential between the employee and the head of his department, according to the DDB.

The DDB said an employee could be subjected to a drug test for "probable cause," or if his beahavior is suspect.

Employees with a history of drug abuse, pending drug cases and those in "high-risk positions". could also be subjected to drug tests.

The drug test would be a requisite for employment and a requirement for promotion, the DDB said.



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Corpus: All-out war even against the powerfa

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Prom page Al

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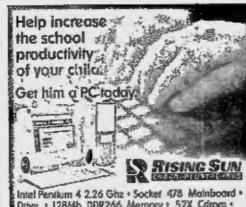
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"it will be an all-out war. Malalaking troso ang babanggain natin dito (We will be up against powerful people here)," Corpus



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said in a telephone interview.

Corpus said the two-pronged attack he envisioned would target "big time illegal loggers," on the one hand, and involve, on the other hand, a self-reliant reforestation program for upland communities, which might include areas under the influence of the communist New People's Army.

It's a pro-people program and I don't see any reason why the NPAs will reject this. It is for their own good," said Corpus, an idealistic army lieutenant before he joined the rebel group early in his military career. Later, he switched loyalties again and returned to the military. % =

No one will be spared

He said past campaigns against illegal logging had failed because "those who are involved are in position, and that's a big obstacle to overcome."

But the President has said that illegal logging would be classified as a heinous crime. That means tomaan ang dapat tamaan, kahit sino pa sila (hit those who need to be hit, regardless of who they are)."

President Macapagal-Arroyo named Corpus, a colorful if not a controversial military officer before he retired recently, as chair of the government-owned Naturai Resources Development Corp. (NRDC).

Running after ex-comrades

Ms Arroyo also designated Corpus to lead the country's reforestation program. His task includes running after insurgents engaged in illegal logging.

The problem of illegal logging and denuded forests shot back into the limelight following the, widespread flooding and deadly landslides caused by four succes-

areas to be identified by the De-nurture the trees," he said. sive tropical cyclones that pounded Luzon the past two weeks.

Ms Macapagal herself partly blamed the NPA for the rampant deforestation in Luzon.

NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said politicians engaged in illegal logging and backed by the police and the military should take the blame.

Source of revolutionary tax Corpus said the NPA also de-

pended for funds on the revolutionary taxes they squeezed from illegal and legal loggers.

He said he was finalizing a draft reforestation program which would also address the problem of poverty, which has contributed to the rise of insurgency in the countryside.

Under the proposed project, Corpus said a government-supported reforestation program would be carried out in upland partment of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Money can grow on trees

TREES did not distinguish between the greedy and their victims. They fell full force on men and women

along their path in Tignoan, Real, Quezon. Bodies were extricated from underneath the logs.

Families residing in the identified areas will be tasked to plant at least "1,000 trees per year" in a one-hectare area for a period of ten years, for instance, Corpus said.

The DENR will provide the technical skills, the seeds and documentation, while the local government unit will assist in terms of ensuring peace and order and issuing permits and other required documents.

In return for planting and nurturing the trees, the families will . has get a 70-percent share of all future proceeds in the sale of the logs upon harvest of the trees, Corpus said.

Those who participate in the reforestation program will have

He said a proposed new corporation, to be named Philippine Forest Corp., would handle the marketing of all forest products from the reforestation program. He said the PFC would be under the now existing NRDC.

Room for bamboo

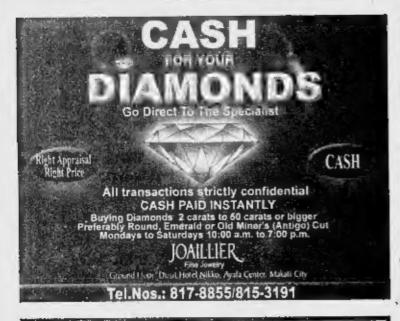
Corpus said the DENR would get 10 percent of the sales, while 10 percent would go to the local government units. But it will not be "all trees" that

will be planted, Corpus said. "We will observe diversity, de-

rendi on the area and the soil," banks will be planted to

barnt o because bamboo roots are known to prevent soil eros sion, Corpus said.

The draft program will be presented to the Cabinet on Wednes. the motivation to protect and day for approval, Corpus said.



ERRATUM

In the ad of SanGiovani published in this paper on Dec. 4, 2004, the ff. should have read:

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Sex high

cantly improved," said Richard Suzman of the National Institute on Aging, which helped fund the study. "In the future, I predict that this approach will become an essential part of national surveys seeking to assess the quality

For the study, David Schkade of the University ty of California in San Diego and colleagues at Princeton University, University of Michigan and elsewhere studied more than 900 women,

New method

Usually, people are asked about their feel ings in general for questionnaires on mood.

The new method, called the Day Recons struction Method, involves breaking the day into a sequence of episodes and rating each activity or moment as a kind of snapshot.

Think of your day as a continuous series of scenes or episodes in a film. Give each episode a brief name that will help you remember it (for example, commuting to work, or having lunch with B)," the women were told. The women rated each activity for positive

and negative associations, with 6 as the strongest and 0 as the weakest. Then the researchers analyzed the num

"Grocery shopping and cleaning the house were rated lowest among 28 activities," the researchers wrote,

On average, the 900 women gave "Intimate relations" a positive score of 5.10, compared to 4.59 for socializing.

Housework scored 3.73, which was better at least than working at 3.62, and commuting with a lowly score of 3.45.

Friends won over kids

And who did the women prefer to be with? Priends clearly won out with a positive score of 4.36. Children landed in the middle, after relatives and spouses.

The boss scored just 3.52.

"When people are asked how much they enjoy spending time with their kids, they think of all the nice things, reading them a story, going to the 200," said University of Michigan psychologist Norbert Schwarz, who worked on the study. "But they don't take the other times that? account—the times when they are trying to do something else and find the kids distracting.

This new method creates a more accurate picture than asking people to generally report how much they like various activides Schwarz said in a statement.

"Saying that you generally don't enjoy spending time with your kids is terrible, but admitting that they were a pain last night quite acceptable," he said.

Sleep quality

Sleep quality had a large effect on the and joyment of life, the researchers found. Worth en who slept poorly, on average, enjoyed their day as little as a typical person enjoyed com-muting. Women who said they slept well en-joyed their day as much as most people seg joyed watching television.

And women who earned more were necessarily happier, the survey found.
"Measures of wealth or health do on

the whole story of how society as a WI particular populations within it, are doing said Princeton's Daniel Kahneman, who led

Cops probe threats vs Albay media men

By fob Belen

PDI Southern Luson Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY-Blcol police director Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda has ordered an investigation into threats reportedly received by Albay media practitioners critical of "justeng" in the province.

At least six media men in Albay have received calls and text messages threatening them with bodily harm and even death for exposing the widespread operation of the illegal numbers game not only in the province but in the entire Bicol region.

First to receive death threats was Danny Calleja, a Manila Times correspondent and columnist of Dyaryong Bikol, a local weekly newspaper.

Calleja said he might have incurred the ire of gambling lords here when he asked a question on jueteng and illegal fishing of President Macapagal-Arroyo when she visited Albay on Oct. 30.

Nelson Arao of radio station dwRC said he received death threats through phone calls and text messages every time he attacked the illegal numbers game.

Bombo Radyo-Legazpi commentator Nelson Bulalação said he also received death threats because of his commentaries on jueteng and illegal fishing.

Other media men who had received threats were Rhaydz Barcia of The Manila Times, this correspondent.

The threats ranged from "bilang no ong arms" PA) warned reporters to be ready for anything.

Johnny Dematera, production manager of mo (your days are numbered)" to "di ka no PBN Broadcasting Network based here, and sisilatan ng araw (you won't see the sunrise)." The Albay-Legazpi Press Association Inc. (AL-

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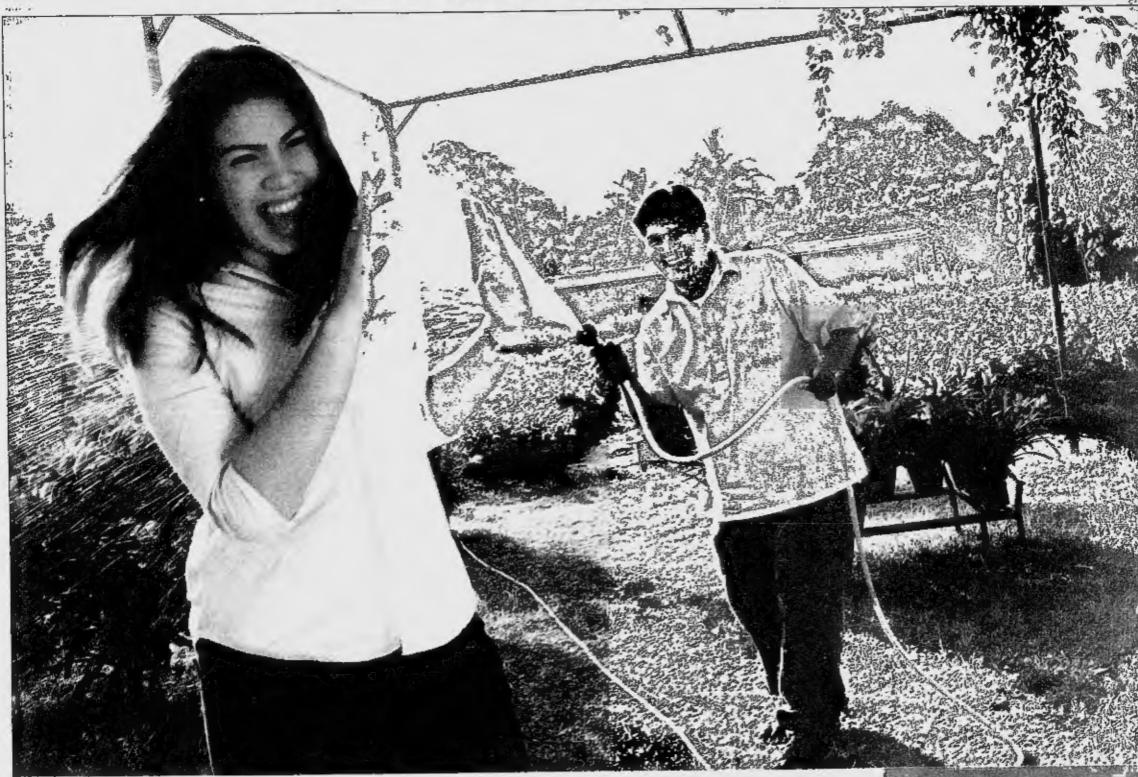
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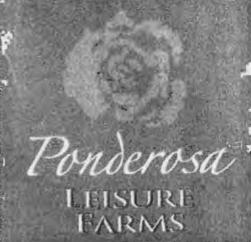


"Time is precious. Waste it wisely." - Anonymous

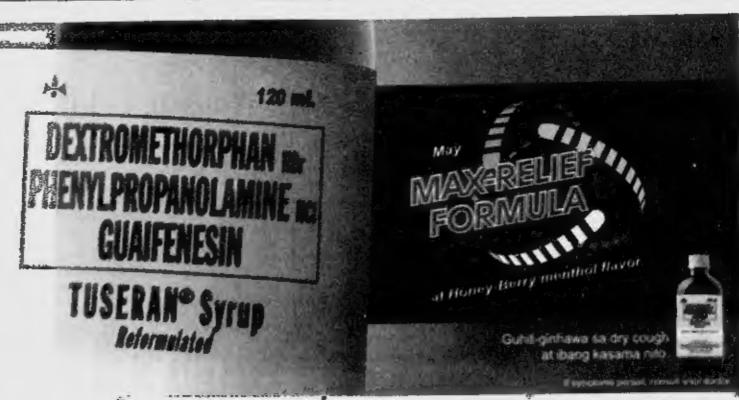


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No more homes to return to, residents stream out of town

From page Al

week before it could clear the roads leading to Real of logs and

Body count

The receding floodwaters were revealing more bodies, residents said. At least 1,000 people are believed dead from the flooding and landslides over the past two weeks.

Soldiers yesterday retrieved 73 more bodies in Infanta, Real and General Nakar, according to Col. Jaime Buenaflor, Army commander in the area.

But the death toll was expected to climb because those earlier listed as missing were "being transferred to the list of the dead," said Col. Elma Aldea, administrator of the Office of Civil

In a text message to the Inquer-ER, Buenaflor said the number of recovered bodies was pegged at 561 as of 3 p.m. yesterday. He said 400 residents were still missing.

The airlift of relief goods stepped up yesterday, with a total of 25 planes shuttling between Villamor Air Base and the affected areas, Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla Jr. said.

Padilla said a C-130 cargo plane brought relief goods to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, one of the provinces hardest hit by Tropical Depression "Winnie."

He said Fort Magsaysay was also a collection area for relief goods for Aurora, Nueva Vizcaya and other typhoon-ravaged provinces in Northern Luzon.

Living dangerously

"It's now dangerous to live in Dingalan," Tasy said. "It's now like a big river. Everywhere there are dead trees, big rocks. The mud is all around. It's so surreal there."

Dingalan means "by the side of the River Galan," according to the accounts of the Dumagat, a Negrito tribe in Aurora. The town, a former sitio of San Luis, was founded on June 16, 1962, through Republic Act No. 3490.

Taay said he had moved his parents out of Barangay Paltic, the biggest village in Dingalan.



GENTLY now, a soldier hands over an infant to his commade on the safer side of a landslide site in storm-whipped Real town in Quezon on Friday, the day after "Winnie" had done its worst.

more homes to return to.

Like the other refugees, Taxy and his parents walked to reach the Gabaldon boundary, where the bridge was destroyed by Typhoon "Violeta" two weeks ago and where people crossed over on improvised stilts difficult and dangerous to negotiate.

Thay said he had found his parents a house to rent in Cabanatuan and was returning soon to Din-

He said his sister Sheila, a municipal councilor, had remained in Dingalan and was helping oversee the evacuation centers.

Of the homes in Paltic, Taay He said the people there had no said: "Nothing can be salvaged

More dead

One of the latest fatalities in Dingalan was Felicisima Delejero, 63, who on Nov. 29 told the INquirer that people were suffering the effects of logging.

After the landslides caused by Violeta buried her house in Purok Mahogany, Delejero returned to clear it of mud. But the landslides last Tuesday buried her and her home, Taay said.

According to radio reporter Ariel Avendano, residents of Paltic were angry at municipal social worker Edwina Miranda because she had allegedly insisted that evacuees return to the vil-

Aurora Gov. Bellaflor Angaraastillo said 32 people died at the height of Winnie, raising the death toll in Dingalan to 70.

Parish priest Antonio Evangesafety of the Dumagat, saying more than 100 of them were either dead or missing.

Yesterday, Evangelio asked Army authorities in Port Magsaysay to airlift 50 sacks of rice, canned goods and clothes solicited by the Prelature of Infanta from Caritas Manila and religious organizations.

Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay, said re-

anymore. Only the roofs are left." Hef goods were airlifted to Baler and Dingalan on Friday.

He said the goods intended for Dingalan, loaded in three six-bysix trucks, were now on the outskirts of Gabaldon.

The [Department of Public Works and Highways) has begun repairing the bridge [in Cuyapa], and hopefully we can reach Dingalan either today (Saturday) or tomorrow (Sunday)," Tolentino told the inquirer by phone.

At least 17,152 people were 51 evacuation centers in the six provinces.

Five more fatalities, mostly lio expressed concern for the from drowning, were reported in

Central Luzon police director and RDCC chair Enrique Galang said 1,650 cavans of rice from the National Disaster Coordinating Council had been distributed since Friday to Representatives Pedro Pancho and Lorna Silverio of Bulacan, Aurelio Umali and Rodolfo Antonino of Nueva Ecija,

Gov. Tomas Joson III of Nueva Ecija, and to the mayors of San Miguel in Bulacan, General Tinio in Nueva Ecija and Dingalan.

Rice distribution

Central Luzon police director and RDCC chair Enrique Galang said 1,650 cavans of rice from the National Disaster Coordinating Council had been distributed since Friday to Representatives Pedro Pancho and Loma Silverio

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Pr. Alfonso Saulo of the San Nicolas Cathedral also received 200 sacks of rice. With reports from Fe Zamora in Manila; VIIlamor Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luxon Bu-

Pope expresses sadness for RP typhoon victims

POPE John Paul II has expressed "deep sadness" to Church leaders here for "the great loss of life caused by the typhoons and floods."

In a letter sent by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano to Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the Pontiff extended his "sympathy to the civil and religious authorities and quoted the Pope as saying. all affected by this disaster."

The Holy See is offering prayers for the victims and their families while praising the people involved in relief and rescue operations, said the letter that Capalla'made public yesterday.

"I ask the Almany God to grant peace and consolation to the homeless, the suffering and those involved in the difficult task of relief," Sodano

51 evac centers in 6 provinces

At least 34,658 families in 126 villages were directly affected by the landslides and floods in Aurora, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Pampanga, according to the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council in Central Luzon.

Aurora, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija.

Damage to crops in Bulacan and Pampanga has reached P177 million, the RDCC said.

General named 'ambassador' for donations

Cruz Jr. yesterday named Maj. Msgr. Meliton Oso, execu-Gen. Glen Rabonza "ambas- tive director of the archdiocesador at large" to follow up donation pledges from foreign countries for the typhoon vic-

"We have so many pledges, and we need a person to handle them." Cruz told reporters.

Rabonza is chief of the 8th Infantry Division based in Eastem Visayas. He will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 next month.

Foreign aid has been pouring in for the typhoon victims. (See story in Metro, Page A23.)

In Iloilo, the Archdiocese of

DEPENSE Secretary Avelino Jaro has called on its flock to help. san social action center, said priests of the archdiocese's 89 parishes had started collecting

cash donations, food, used

clothing, sleeping mats, medicine and eating utensils. The call for donations will be aired over radio and TV in Iloilo and in the Sunday Mass-

In this hour of tragedy, let us offer a helping hand to our brothers and sisters in whatever way we can," he said. Fe Zamora in Manila; Nestor P. Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau "In this hour of tragedy, let

How 'ro-ro' ship brought 1st batch of relief goods

From page Al

ous groups, Alcala had called on the owners of ships plying the sea off Quezon to "lend" their vessels for the purpose of transporting the collected donations.

"My wife, who was watching the program, told me about Congressman Alcala's call," engineer Adolfo Bartolata, technical manager of Philippine Nippon Kyole Corp., told the ln-QUIRER.

He said he relayed Alcala's request to the company's main office in Manila, which in turn passed it on to Arturo Yan, the Hong Kong-based ship owner.

Manila office to grant the re-

"For a humanitarian cause, let's do it," Bartolata quoted Yan as saying.

When Bartolata contacted Alcala to relay Yan's go-signal, the lawmaker said he would shoulder the cost of the 1,200 liters of diesel oil that would be needed for the voyage.

"There was no other monetary consideration involved. The use of the ship was for free," Bartolata said.

Enthusiastic response

Arnel Avila, host of the "Pag-Yan immediately called back usapan Natin' program aired

news that the Grandstar 2-which plies the Atimonan to Alabat island route-would transport relief goods for free.

He was overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response from the

"I really did not anticipate it," he said of the calls from various organizations inquiring about the voyage.

He said the bulk of the assorted goods that filled up three trucks was collected through his program alone.

Avila said 36 police trainees from Camp Nakar and a number of civilian volunteers

and instructed the company's over cable STV6, broke the helped pack the canned goods, poodles, rice, sugar and coffee, among many other items.

Most of the donated goods were transported directly to In-

The Quezon-based Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, also converted its cramped office in Lucena into another collection center for donations.

Main focus

Asis Perez, Tanggol Kalikasan director and lawyer, said the group had temporarily cast aside its militancy in advocating environmental protec-

"The pressing need of the moment is to help each other, to alleviate the pitiful plight of the people in north Quezon. That's our main focus at present," he said.

Tanggol Kalikasan was also able to fill three trucks with assorted food items, Perez said.

Collective support

He said business establishments and civic groups in Lucena-the Rotary Club of Lucena South, the local branch of Metrobank, the Mirant Pagbilao power plant, the Quezon Capitol Rural Bank, the Gemini Bakery, among many other entities-contributed to the relief

es, said Oso.

Alcala, who had initlated the humanitarian voyage, was nor part of the journey.

When contacted for an interview, he politely declined credit and said: "What is taking place is the collective expression of support from Quezonians to other Quezonians in distress. Bayanihan is an inherent trait of my provincemates."

A 12-member mountaineer ing group from Tayabas, Que zon, joined the voyage.

Protestant Pastor Noel Suministrado, the group leader, said they would climb to the upper villages to look for more survivors.

They walked slowly to safety, avoiding bodies along the way

beach. Outside, the sea swelled and the waves raged.

The huddled hungry

Maribeth's father, Eutiquio Amida, was already at the school. He had gathered his family composed of his wife Mila, their children and grandchildren, his sister Pacencia, her children and grandchildren. All 16 of them were huddled together to keep warm. They

were wet, thirsty and hungry. 'Aithough the school was the only structure that remained standing, I noticed that soft mud

had accumulated in the building. I was afraid the structure would collapse with another flash flood or worse, a tidal wave," Eutiquio

For two days, the Amida family and other evacuees stayed in the

"We had no food or clean water. The children kept crying. I was worried for my daughter Maribeth and her cousin's wife Rita. They were both pregnant and due to deliver any time," Eutiquio narrated.

"Will we die?"

On Tuesday evening, his

grandson Christian could no Real. They chose to pass smell," Maribeth narrated. longer contain his fear and asked: "Lolo (Grandpa), if another typhoon comes, will we die

"My grandson heard about super Typhoon Yoyong' on the radio, that it could be more destructive than Winnie. This frightened him a lot," Eutiquio

"Lolo, alis na po tayo. Natatakot na po ako (Grandpa, let us leave this place. I am scared)," Euriquio quoted his grandson as saying. The whole family decided to

through Sitio Walingwaling in Barangay Malapad. It was the best route, the elders decided, because they would avoid walking through mudslides and deep

Two-day trek

On Wednesday, at 5 a.m., the 16 members of the Amida family started their two-day trek through mud, fallen trees and rocks. It was worse for the pregnant Maribeth and Rita.

"While walking through mud, leave the school building and we passed by several dead bodhead for Barangay Tanauan in ies. Worse, they had started to

When they reached Barangay Tignoan, they were met by soldiers who advised them to go back and take shelter in any building. But the Amida family decided to push on, despite the thickening mud which was now a mirrure of sharp rocks and pieces of wood which cut through their

"We were bleeding but nobody complained. We continued our

walk," Euriquio said.

Good to be alive By nightfall, they reached Sitio Walingwaling. "We spent the

night crammed in an abandoned shelter," he said.

The following morning, the group resumed its trek despite continuous rains and howling winds hoping to reach higher ground before Yoyong struck-

On Thursday, at dusk, they arrived at Sitio Sadin, Barangay Tanauan in Real.

On Friday, the Amida family reached the national road which, mercifully, bad been spared from the landslides and where trans portation was available.

This time, the air smelled sweet. It was good to be alive.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Indian model for 'zero waste' tourism in RP pushed

By Jerome Aning

AN: ENVIRONMENTAL expert wants Philippine hotels and resorts to be at the forefront of the country's "zero waste" campaign not only to keep tourist sites productive bur to preserve the environment.

"Pollution and garbage are a real turn-off to tourists and even to local residents. Waste-free tourism will certainly do well for the environment and assist in attracting more people, both local and foreign tourists, in patronizing the country's tourist destinations," Chelaton Jayakumar, an Indian conservationist told Pilipino tourism industry managers in a recent forum.

Jayakumar, an official of the Thanal Conservation Action and Information Network, cited India's "zero waste" approach to tourism in a forum organized by

the Department of Tourism in coordination with the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives and Greenpeace International.

Thanai is a nongovernment organization based in India's southwestern state of Kerala engaged in environment preservation. Jayakumar is a member of Thanai's steering committee, co-chair of its pesticide working group and a participant in the community monitoring working group.

Thanai and other NGOs spearheaded a massive zero-waste project to help restore the popularity of Kovalam, a popular tourist attraction in Kerala that suffered degeneration after becoming a virtual dumping ground of waste valam.org) included left behind by visitors.

Over the past 30 years, millions of tourists had flocked to Kovalam's scenic 23 km-long beach. friendly materials,

During that period, the site's 47 hotels, 72 lodges, 44 restaurants and 350 commercial shops produced tons of garbage that caused

a serious waste management problem. Jayakumar said

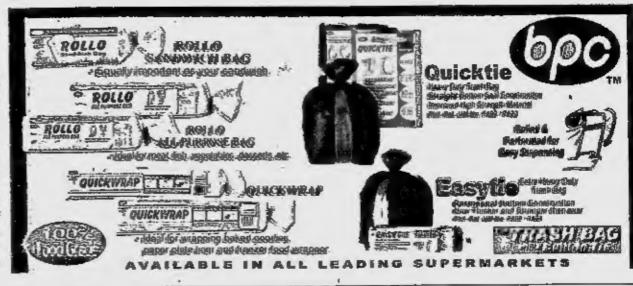
the zero waste process Thanal advocated for Kerala was an ethical, economical and efficient way of looking at materials use that eliminated the concept of waste.

The Zero Waste Kovalam Project (See more details at www.serowastekothe phasing out of plastics and the use environmentfree farming, water conservation were encouraged to collect all

Soda and bottled water com- styrofoam for recycling.

controlled dumping, chemical- panies and food manufacturers and environmental awareness. used tin cans, plastic bottles and

segregates biodegradable and nonbiodegradable items and has a resource recovery center for recycling.



Test for coliform in Leyte Gulf 'inconclusive'

By Jerome Aning

TOURISM Secretary Joseph Ace Durano yesterday allayed fears that the waters of the Lingayen Gulf were contaminated with the coliform bacteria, saying the results of recent rests were inconclusive.

Durano said that findings purportedly showing that the gulf was contaminated with the coliform bacteria, which causes waterborne and digestive ailments, were inconclusive since only one sampling was conducted.

Durano quoted Department of Health regional director Eduardo Janairo as saying that only one sampling for coliform in 21 sites in La Union and Bolinao, Pangasinan, was

Janairo, he said, stressed that the local media picked up on the results of the tests without elaborating on the procedure and the methodology used.

In order to be valid, Janairo explained, there was a need to conduct at least 30 samplings per area and the findings must be subjected to thorough statistical analyses.

The DOH will conduct another water-sampling test and will call a conference to present

Martin Valera, officer in charge of DOT-Region I, said the test was conducted during the rainy months of July and August when there was a tendency for inland water bodies to overflow with their runoff going to the sea.

The Department of Science and Technology office in Region I revealed that the single sample findings conducted for the Regional Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health in April indicated some form of coliform contamination in the sea water off 21

But the results were still within the satisfactory limits based on the European Union guide level, the DOST office said.

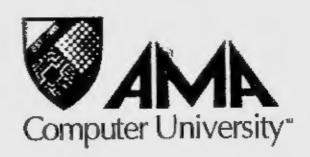




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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

'Orange Revolution' wins as Ukraine to hold new vote

KIEV-Ukraine's Supreme Court ruled Friday that contested presidential elections were tainted by fraud and must be repeated, handing a historic victory to pro-Western opposition forces challenging a ruling establishment beholden to Moscow since Soviet times.

commission to set a date for a new runoff vote... from Dec. 5, 2004 in accordance with the law," the court's chief justice Anatoly Vareina announced.

"The court decision is final and cannot be appealed," he said, reading from the ruling.

A representative of pro-Western opposition leader and presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko said the law stipulated that a vote must take place three weeks from the date announced by the court, or Dec. 26.

The hero of the hour hailed hundreds of thousands of his supporters in Kiev's central Indepen-

"We order the central election thanks to you, you are heroes," hesaid to deafening cheers and a veritable sea of orange flags, his campaign color after the court decision was broadcast live on national television and radio.

> "We're going to have awesome fireworks tomorrow," he said.

"This is a huge victory for all those people who have been standing out on the square," said a Yushchenko spokesperson, Nikolai Katerinchuk, referring to the tens of thousands of opposition protesters who have camped out in the streets of the capital since the contested Nov. 21 vote.

The United States and the European Union, which backed

peaceful, democratic resolution that reflects the will of the people," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, who has been to Ukraine to try to resolve the crisis, appealed to everyone "in Ukraine to fully cooperate (with) the decision of the court with a view to holding free, fair and transparent elections."

The Nov. 21 runoff vote pitted Western-leaning Yushchenko against the pro-Russia Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

The election commission said results showed that the ruling party candidate had won the vote, but Yushchenko refused to concede, daiming the government helped rig the vote to steal the election.

"The court's decision is an im- 10-year rule, had yet to comment portant step in moving toward a on the ruling late Friday. But the minister's slammed the verdict.

"The court... effectively played a political role," said Stepan Gavrich, a Yanukovich representative. It "even went beyond the plaintiffs appeal... (that) did not ask for another runoff vote, but had asked to annul results," Interfax quoted him as saying.

Kuchma on Thursday met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow and both leaders made clear afterwards that they opposed a re-run only of the Yushchenkoversus-Yanukovich contest, favoring instead a repeat of the entire election process—a plan vehemently opposed by the opposition,

Outside the court house, several thousand opposition supporters erupted in cheers, tears and



KIEV celebrates after the Supreme Court decision.

WORLDBRIEFS

Blast shakes Baghdad

BAGHDAD-A powerful blast shook central Baghdad on Saturday and a thick column of black smoke rose from near the Green Zone complex housing the Interim Iraqi government and embassies, witnesses sald. They said the explosion, which occurred outside a police station next to a main entrance to the Green Zone. was possibly caused by a car bomb. Heavy machinegun fire echoed from the site of the blast immediately afterwards. There were no immediate reports of any casualties.

Rumsfeld to stay

WASHINGTON-Donald Rumsfeld has agreed to stay on as defense secretary at US President George W. Bush's request, a senior administration official said Friday on condition he not be named. "The president and secretary Rumsfeld" spoke on Monday, the president asked him to stay, the secretary agreed, and the president is very pleased," the official said. "This is a time of real challenge. We are waging a war against terror, and at this critical juncture secretary Rumsfeld is the right person for this position," the official said. Rumsfeld would appear to be one of 🔭 🤚 the few members of Bush's cabinet to survive the overhaul that has followed the president's re-election victory on Nov. 2.

Big chill from warming

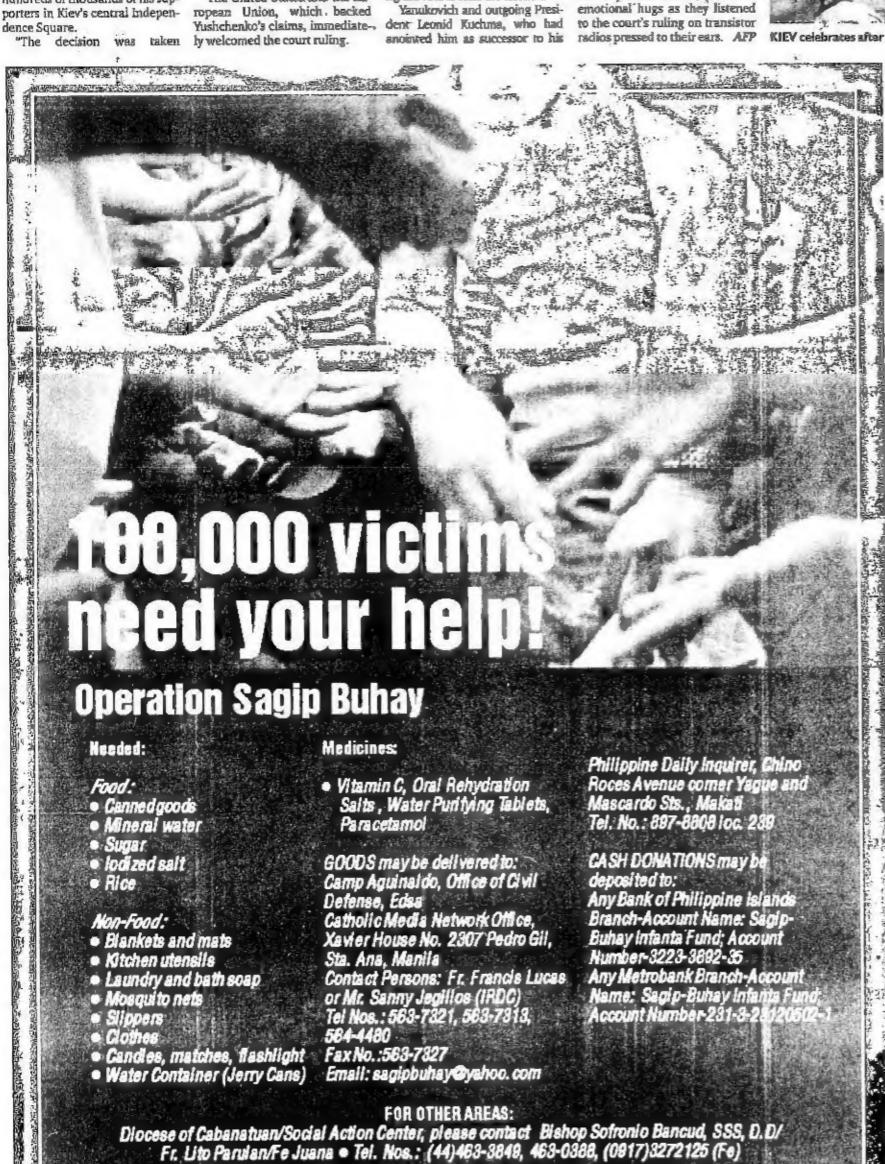
WASHINGTON-Global warming could lead to a big chill in the North Atlantic, at least if history is anything to go by, researchers reported on Friday. They published evidence to support a popufar theory that rising temperatures caused a big melt of polar ice 8,200 years ago, causing a freshwater flood into the salty North Atlantic. This would have changed the flow of the balmy Gulf Stream and In just a few years, average temperatures plummeted, ushering in a deep freeze that lasted a century or more, researchers have proposed. Writing in the Dec. 11 Issue of Geophysical Research Letters, Torbjorn Torngvist, an assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, says he has evidence that this happened. "Few would argue it's the most dramatic climate change in the last 10,000 years," Torngvist said in a statement. "We're now able to show the first sea-level record that corresponds to that event." Tornovist and some graduals students found the evidence along the Gulf of Mexico off the southern US coast. They found peat doposits that would have been formed under ris-Ing sea levels. Working with researchers in the Netherlands, they dated the material to 8,200 years ago. Their composition suggested they were made when a saltwater marsh was abruptly flooded and turned into a lagoon.

Chile torture victims

SANTIAGO-A score of former political Chilean prisoners who say they were tortured under Augusto Pinochet's regime on Friday accused the former dictator and his interior minister, their lawyers said. Charges were filed at a Santiago court of appeals five days after publication of a report on tortures under Plnochet's military rule. which lasted from 1973 and 1990. A commission headed by Roman Catholic Bishop Sergio Valech prepared the report from 35,000 accounts on the use of rape, electricity, burns, taked executions and other forms of lorture. Pinochet's interior minister, Sergio Fernandez, was also accused.

Thai jail scandal

BANGKOK-A That convict serving six years for that raided more than 100 homes in a one-man orime wave after bribing prison guards to let him in and out of jail, according to newspaper reports and officials Saturday. Wittayakorn Arunpas sped away on a motorcycle rented from guards at Nong Khai jail, northeast Thalland, bribed his way back in and then allowed officers first refusal for goods from his hauls, according to reports. The scandal came to light after he was arrested on Wednesday. Three prison officials have been sacked with another eight under investigation, according to The Nation newspaper.



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'Cali Cartel' kingpin sent to US on drug charges

BOGOTA, Colombia—The former boss of the Call drug cartel, who once controlled most of the world's cocaine trade, was sent to the United States on Friday to face trafficking and money laundering charges.

Gaberto Rodriguez Orejuela, 65, was one of the last of Colombia's regendary outlaws to run the cocaine business from jungle laboratories to foreign distribution. He is the highest-profile criminal ever extradited from this Andean country to the United States.

Authorities said Rodriguez Orejuela, known in the 1980s and early 1990s as the "Chess Player" for his ability to outwit ponce, continued to run his empire from jail after his 1995 arrest and after a ban on extradition was lifted two years later.

But on Friday evening he was escorted, handcuffed and wearing a bullet-proof jacket, by heavily armed police to a Bogota police airport and handed to US Drug Enforcement Administration officers.

He was put on a Miami-bound plane about two weeks after US President George W. Bush visited Colombia to solidify his alliance with President Alvaro Uribe against "nárcoterrorists."

Rodriguez Orejuela faces drug trafficking and money laundering charges in Miami, where he was in-

dicted as part of Operation Cornerstone, a federal investigation that began in 1991 and resulted in the serzure of nearly 50,000 kilos of cocaine and \$15 milnon in US currency.

"Gilberto driguez Orejuela is alleged to have trafficked in illegal drugs that tear at the fabric of society and draw the innocent away from safe and productive lives," US Attorney General John Asheroft said in a written statement.

Rodriguez Orejuela faces life in



OREJUELA

prison. He was scheduled for his first appearance in a US federal court on

This is a watershed moment in our nation's war against drugs," said Marcos Daniel Jimenez, the US Attorney in Miami whose office will prosecute Rodriguez Orejuela.

The arrest of Rodriguez Orejuela and his brother Miguel in 1995 was touted as a big victory in the war on drugs but had little effect on the market.

The gray-haired Rodriguez Oregiven to wearing Lacoste sweaters,

1980s and 1990s cocaine trade when public figures, including a top presidential candidate, were routinely murdered for threatening cocame interests.

This extradition is a sign of the maturation of Colombia's political system," said Michael Shifter, a senior fellow at Washington think tank Inter-American Dialogue.

Uribe has increased extraditions during his more than two years in power. His tough security policies have reduced violence associated with the country's 40-year-old guerrilla war involving Marxist rebels and far-right paramilitaries, both of which are linked to the cocaine business.

Washington has poured more than \$3 billion over the past four years into Plan Colombia, which funds the chemical defoliation of coca fields and other antidrug measures. Bush pledges continued support.

Rodriguez Orejuela spent four months out of jail in late 2002 and early 2003 after a judge reduced his 15-year sentence for good behavior. Police soon picked him up on fresh charges of trafficking drugs to Florida in the early 1990s.

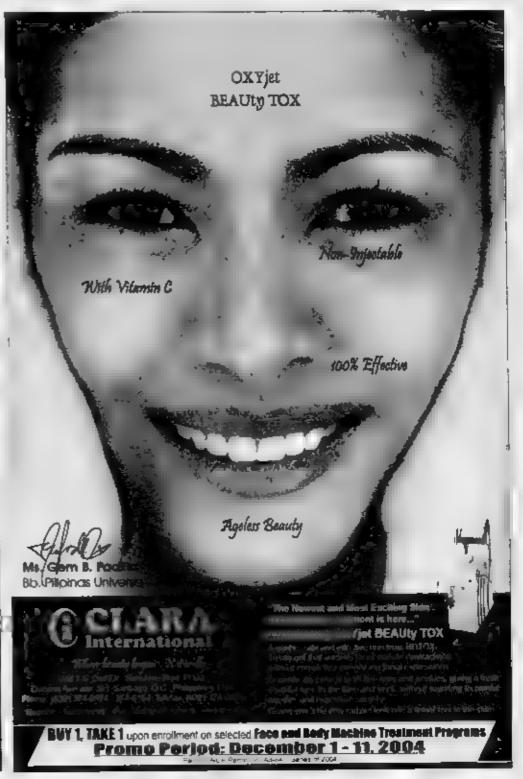
The drug king sounded resigned in juela, now a grandfatherly figure a recent interview with a Colombian magazine, saying: "I have found a

is a relic of Colombia's hyper-violent certain internal peace. My only worry blan jail. The brothers took near conis for my family. My destiny is in the hands of God."

His brother Miguel is in a Colom-

trol of Colombia's cocame industry after police gunned down rival drug lord Pablo Escobar in 1993. Reuters









Somewhere between insomnia and breakfast.

The phone rang and a hand found its way out from under the sheets, groping for the receiver. "Hi Charissel" said a voice too cheerful to sound like 4AM. Charisse cleared her throat underneath the pillow and put on her smiley voice. "Good morning Mrs. Villa. How may I help you?"

For the next twenty minutes, Mrs. Villa discussed her finances, the status of her accounts, the latest rates, how her portfolio was doing. Charisse, wide awake now, jotted down notes, and responded equally quick. "Yes, Mrs. Villa. Of course we'll do that," Or alternately "I'll get back to you on that as soon as I check some figures."

It wasn't some emergency financial crisis that was being put to rest here. Or the whim of some obsessive-compulsive business mogul. It was just a normal bank transaction.

Or at least what passed as such for Mrs. Villa, a certified insomniac, Charisse was used to it by now and was recognized, jokingly, as the bank's Banking In Bed specialist. And in some strange way, had grown to like the early morning talks. It got her up early. And always gave her time for breakfast.

"Oh, and Charisse, I have no idea where to find a prom date for Julie. Do you think you could help me out with that, too?"

"Julie's a pretty garl, Mrs. Villa. I'd worry more about her dress than her date."

"You're right of course. Did you get the instructions I left yesterday? The one about the time deposit?"

"Yes ma'am. Our messenger picked it up first thing yesterday."

"Hay naku. I wouldn't know what to do without you, Charisse."

"It's no problem at all, Mrs. Villa. No problem at all." The conversation had wound down to stretch marks and the quest for wrinkle prevention when a stifled yawn came from Mrs. Villa's end of the line.

"Sounds like you need to get some rest, Mrs. Villa. And I need to start getting ready for work anyway."

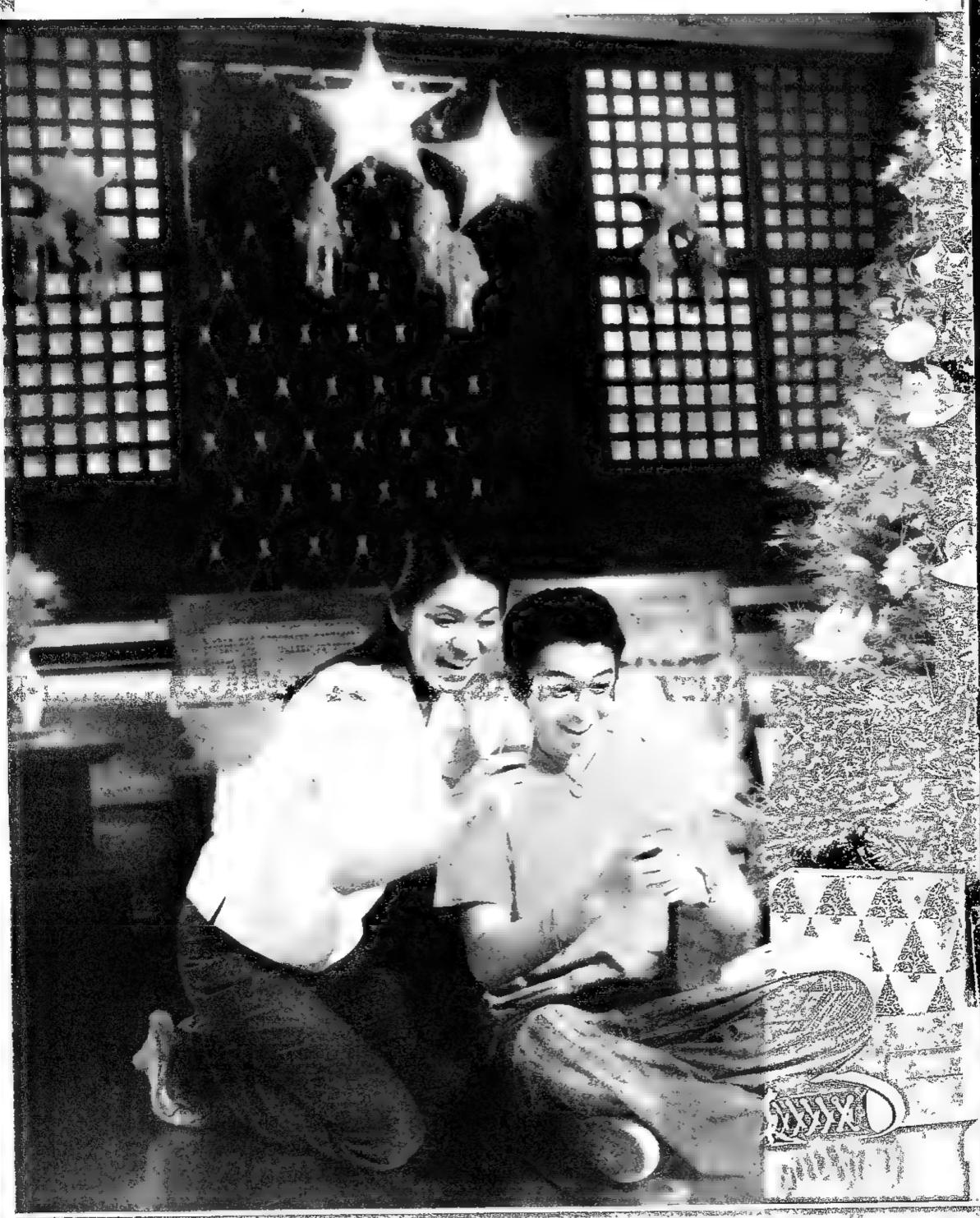
"Of course. Sorry I talk so much. You have a good day Charisse. Good morning!"

"And good night to you, Mrs. Villa."

Charisse stretched, smiled, and figured it would be a sinangag and danggit kind of day.

(If this doesn't sound like the kind of relationship you have with your bank, you may want to give us a try.)





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-Our religitions numbers are 297-8806 connecting all departments
-Editorial Fax 897-4791 / 897-4794 - Advantising 897-4807
- Circulation 527-3342 | 527-3346 | 528-6183 /



The Presence Over Inquires, No. had to bushess and editorial offices at Ehine Roces Are corner Yages and Mancardo Sts., Halasti City
 RO. Box 2352 Maiasti Control Post Office 263 Makati City \$28-0184 and \$28-02(3 / Fax. \$28-83-34.

Publisher ISAGAM YAPMOT Editor in Chief Letty JMENEZ-MARSANCE Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. NoLASCO Associate Editor ABELANDO S, LINANDAY Associate Editor for Readership Rosamo A. GARCELLANO News Editor ARTERIO T. ENGRACIA JR. * Chief, News Day Desk NR. O B. PAURON Opinion Editor Jones Y. ARUTA National Editor Pencerrino B. BANDAVIEL JA. City Editor GENRY LINIO Senfor Desk Editor Juan V. SARHEBITO IR. Editorial Consultant Assesso Donovera

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AVP for Circulation GLONA P. LABOUANAL

Things to do

TTE have often chided the President for issuing laundry lists of things to do during moments of national import, instead of offering the nation a bold, inspiring vision. But in this time of calamity, such a list is exactly what we need from President Macapagal-Arroyo, a list of steps to take-immediately or in the next few weeks-to hasten the country's recovery from the

natural disasters of the last two weeks. Her appeal to the people to unite in

the face of the recent tragedies is timely, but in itself it is not enough. This is in part because the over-symplifications that drive political rhetoric are already hard at work. A mere two days after typhoon "Yoyong" exited, it has become conventional wisdom to blame both the practice of illegal logging and the New People's Army for the floods and the landslides.

The truth is much more complicated than that. Both illegal loggers and the NPA (the government says the communist rebels are illegal loggers themselves) bear part of the blame. But commercial or legal logging is not without fault, either. And some local politicians and businessmen helped create the conditions on the ground that aggravat-

If the over-simplifications drive post-disaster policy, then the government cannot hope to stop similar tragedies in the future.

There is a pressing need, then, to find out exactly what happened. This pursuit of the truth will take time; judging from sorry experience, a whole lot of time, because every other senator and congressman and executive official would want to have his say, preferably before the cameras.

But we cannot afford to be distracted from the tasks at hand; that is why the entire country needs to focus on the immediate and the near term, and that is where the President's laundry list comes in.

The most immediate items on that to-do list concern

rescue and relief operations:

1. The spell of good weather between the last typhoon and the next "low-pressure" disturbance should not distract the government and the non-government organizations it is working with from continuing with the rescue attempts; there may yet be victims who survived the mudshdes that overtook a portion of Dumingan town in Aurora and killed a hundred, for instance. In the one or two days left before the onset of another storm, rescue must be the undisputed first priority.

2. A close second would be relief. It is critical that the flow of relief materials continues, but it is crucial that the relief centers in the calamity areas must be made safe and secure. The worst thing that can happen in the next few days is for another evacuation center to collapse. (The one at Real cost over a hundred lives.) If any such center is at risk, the evacuees and the rehef materials must be moved to a safer place. But such centers are at risk also from the outbreak of diseases. It is imperative that, for the sake of the living, the dead must be immediately buried. And that hygiene standards must be, however heroically,

In the next week or so, the President must also insist on temporary measures that will help prevent similar tragedies or help account for last week's. These initiatives may include the following:

3. The meteorological agency Pagasa should fill in the gaps in its forecasting ability by increasing frequency and forging short-term linkages with institutions that have advance equipment. What is to prevent Pagasa, for instance, from supplementing its three daily forecasts with, say, updates from CNN or Nasa, properly attributed and qualified?

4. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources should identify all the Timber License Agreements, Industrial Tree Plantation Lease Agreements, Industrial Forest Management Agreements, and Socialized Industrial Forest Management Agreements that awarded logging concessions in Aurora and Quezon.

5. The Department of Defense should begin a comprehensive review of the government's disaster-management plans, in particular, to explore better ways of coordinating with NGOs and other civil-society groups which

take disaster-preparedness seriously. And so on and so forth. In helping the storm-struck stand on their own feet again, the government must be specific and time-bound about its short-term goals-befrom the delices of nations measures are a real



Is the Filipino worth dying for?

"Is the Filipino worth dying for?" my son Caloy asked me one day. I said, "Yes, of course," almost automatically. He reacted with a quizzacal smile, as if I was bluffing or lying. That needed an explanation.

I was not bluffing or lying. I was generalizing. Filipinos in general are worth dying for I am not ashamed of them not do I disown them. Our race is honored by the past, tested by the present, and if it manages its current problems, will conquer the future. Our people are not the misbegotten of the earth.

Yet this principle is not absolute. For every rule, there is an exception that makes the rule. On the question we are pondering, there are so many exceptions that they practically make the rule

So when is the Filipino not worth dying for? Perdinand Marcos was a Filipino who betrayed his country. His despotic reign for more than 14 years reduced the Philippines to the tail-ender in Asia from its former leading and promising status. He debased freedom. scorned human rights, and plundered the national treasury. His death was worth dying for

Those corrupt and greedy generals are not worth dying for. They deserve the condemnation of the nation they have robbed blind. Their wives who are their partners in crime should also be denounced and purushed. They are imitators of the conjugal regime that despoiled our country during neartial law.

And so too should we spurn that PMA valedictorian who brought shame upon his people and wrecked his own future with a petty theft. Like many of his shady superior officers, he has tarnished the gleaming record of the PMA as the breeding ground of honest and intelligent patrious sworn to defend the land with their

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

That Filipino lad who murdered his parents and sister in Australia defies belief and disdains compassion. He slew his own blood and kin to claim their wealth, part of which was already potentially his. He was not only evil but also stupid. He is part of the blot in our nation that should be cleansed and permanently

And let us not exempt the shameless congressmen whose attachment to the pork barrel is as muggy as their greed. At a time when the country is beset more than ever before with a financial crisis that only the president casually ignores, their avarice disgraces the whole Congress and demands their summary and isrevocable eviction.

The misfits in the Senate are also not worth dying for. Those who elected them deserve the same harsh judgment. They have dishonored that once august chamber where once trod the great statesmen of our country. Not even good at their original occupation as B actors, these new senators are still acting as comedians in their now serious role, and at public expense.

The President of the Philippines is not worthy of her position. She won it by dancing in ethnic costume, distributing goodles among the voters, and some say by cheating. She is now rewarding her supporters by appointing

them to choice positions, like the one she gave a rettred solon who did nothing during his two terms in the Senate.

She has also demeaned the country by acting as if we were still a colony of the United. States, with her as viceroy. Many would not die for her but would rather impeach her.

And there are many ordinary others who, although Filipines, are not worth dying for.

Among the scoundrels are the jeepney driver who loads or unloads in the middle of heavy traffic and claims, "Naghahanap-buhay lamang," which may excuse also the thief and the embezzler who are likewise working at . their trade; the mulcting cop who specializes in daily graft or major extortions for the support of his several live-in partners and their respective breeds; the priest who sexually herasses parishioners and, in a show of crocodile tears or unrepentant piety, publicly prays for absolution by the cover-up hierarchy; the judge who renders a crooked decision purchased by the winning party or delays a conviction for the benefit of a paying accused, the drug dealer who has infected the whole country, especially the youth, with his malevolence, and deadly rapacity; the vandal who mars newly-painted walls with senseless and ugiy graffiti that have made Metro Manila a veritable slud row; and many other scalawags who have given the unfair impression that the Pil-. ipine is not worth dying for.

For all their wide disrepute, they constitute only a small minority of the 86 million Filipinos who lead honorable lives, fear and revere God, love their families, observe their civic duties, essert and protect their rights, and cherish nature and all its bounties. These are the Filipinos worth dying for

Advent reminders

I HAVE often wondered why surgeons, after scrubbing, would enter the operating room with both hands raised toward their faces. There must be a medical reason for doing this. And maybe a psychological reason, too. Can you imagine the threatening look of a surgeon if he entered the OR with two hands raised like claws toward the patient, with mask and

The Gospel today (Mr. 3, 1-12) speaks about John the Baptist who threatened the self-righteous and complacent Pharisees and Saducees with his courageous proclamation of the truth. He did not mince words. He did not care who got hurt in the process, even if he was the one who was burt and killed in the end. We need in our present day and time John the Baptists who are not afraid to stand up against people who have become so thick-faced and complacent in their evil ways and means. As in John the Baptist's time, a change of heart is also the call of our times.

The recent typhoons were Advent reminders for preparation and conversion. I hope that the selfish, filthy rich who have enriched themselves by illegal means were reach out in generosity and love. moved with sorrow and repentance as they watched on television, inside the comfort of their air-conditioned homes, the plight of our suffering, hungry, homeless people. How many people are suffering this very moment because the selfish rich abused the natural resources of our country? How many people are suffering this very moment because the filthy rich pockered the money that was meaut for them? More than the feel-good donations and the much publicized visits and relief operations, the Lord asks a change of heart and a radical conversion.

As we braced ourselves for the big typhoon, there was something else which we has been fadd bearing over another and the Lord and



Orbos, SVD

The recent typhoons were Advent reminders for preparation and conversion

and our Blessed Mother in prayer. It is amazing how we as a people reminded one another through text messages of our need for God, and the power of prayer. Threatened by something beyond our control, we humbled ourselves, and in our helplessness, we turned to God in prayer. I hope we also turn to our hearts and change our ways. I hope, too that we turn to one another and

We have in Fr. Charlito Colendres, chancellor of the Prelature of Infanta, a modern-day John the Baptist, His whole life was spent in proclaiming the Gospel truths in defense of his flock. He died while he was trying to save his parishioners during the recent flash floods "in solidarity with his people to the last." A priest has died saving lives, while the loggers and their cohorts who caused and aggravated the flash floods are free and enjoying a comfortable life. Shame on you!

Recently, a beautiful Advent reminder came to our shores in the person of Julia Kim, the visionary from Korea. She touched

ing and message. Thousands of people were literally embraced by her. Being embraced by Julia is like being embraced by the Blessed Mother. We told her that she did not have to embrace and bless everyone because she was exhausted already, but with a smile typical of a mother, she said she wanted to bless and embrace everyone. Her love is sincere. Her generosity

Upon the invitation of Director Sol Marugas, i had the chance to give spiritual enhancements to the teachers-staff of the Department of Education (Region 8) in Tacloban City, 1 accepted the invitation to honor our public school teachers who carry out an invaluable, mission for our people. They are not only educators, they are modern-day prophets as well in their task of forming, informing and transforming our society through education. On a personal note, I also wanted to honor my mother, herself a public school teacher, who celebrates her 84th birthday this Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Hall to all dedicated parents and teachers who are true prophets, not for profit.

While some of us are getting ready preparing for a nice and cozy Christmas, let us be reminded that we have brothers and sisters around who are not even sure if they will still be alive this Christmas because of poverty and sickness. Please, please, please share, and do your part. That which you do for love is never lost. That which you do for, Christ will last. Any help for the victims in cash or in kind, please call up the SVD Mis-, sion Office at 721-7457.

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, thank you for reminding us of the Advent message of readiness and change of hearts

Ramelli inchee@month enline net

The Ombudsman

THE FIGHT against official corruption has once again taken center stage, mainly with the high-profile case involving a two-star general of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Not since plunder charges were filed against former President Joseph Estrada has the nation seen a flurry of activities in pursuit of a "big fish" in government.

A recent working paper of the International Monetury Fund came to the conclusion that there exists a vital connection between corruption and poverty with the evidence indicating that corruption increases poverty in any society. So in a sense, the war against corruption is an integral part of the struggle to eradicate poverty in our country.

In the forefront of this battle is a 16-year-old office which was initially created by the 1973 Constitution and was known as the Tanodbayan. The office was tasked to investigate complaints against public officials. The 1987 Constitution beefed up the office by adding an overall deputy and one deputy each for Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and the Armed Forces. It also created the Office of the Special Prosecutor. However, it was not until May 12, 1988 that the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) came into being with the appointment of former Justice Courado M. Vasquez as the first Ombudsman serving a term of seven years. He was followed by Aniano Desierto, who was succeeded in 2002 by the current Ombudsman, Simeon Marcelo.

Just for historical background and appreciation: Unlike the Tanodbayan and the Sandiganbayan, the term Ombudsman is of Scandinavian origin. It derives from two Swedish words: "Ombud" meaning commissar or agent, and "man" which has the same meaning in the English language. In 1809, the office of the justiticombudsman was created to act as an agent of justice, to see after the interests of citizens in the affairs of government. In Scandinavian countries, the Ombudsman is a government official who investigates citizens' complaints against the government or its functionaries. The term has since been expanded in use to include people who perform laugh.



similar functions in business corporations and

in a recent forum last October, Ombudsman Marcelo pointed out the glaring inadequacies of his office by comparing it with Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Correption (ICAC), one of the most successful anti-corruption agen-

1 In terms of personnel-the ICAC has 1,326 personnel for a bureaucracy of some 174,175 officials and employees and a population of 6.8 million. The OMB has 1,441 personnel for a bureaucracy of approximately 1.5 million officials and employees and a population of roughly 84 mil-

2. In budgetary figures—The ICAC has the equivalent of P4.94 billion while the OMB has P480 million.

lion officials and employees or a ratio of 1-17,241.

Hong Kong

In simple terms, what you pay for is what you get, and unless we start putting our money where our mouths are, the "big fishes" in our society will continue to have the last say as well as the last

Which brings me to one of the more promising projects initiated by Marcelo. He points out that despite its 16 years of existence, the OMB has failed to indict and successfully prosecute the proverbial "big fish." The main reason is that the OMB has less than 60 prosecutors handling more than 2,000 cases. Marcelo has identified about 50 of the most prominent and high-impact cases at the Sandiganbayan involving high-ranking government officials who are represented by the best iawyers money can buy. Under "Operation Big Fish" the OMB and the Philippine Bar Association entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with respect to the prosecution of some of these "big fish" cases. With the help of volunteer lawyers from the private sector, the OMB hopes to be able to aggressively prosecute the most powerful and influential officials involved in these 50 most siginficant graft cases. Among the cases are those involving: (1) President Dioedado Macapagal Boulevard; (2) RSBS Pension Fund; (3) PEA-Amarl scam; (4) Tax credit scam; (5) DPWH vehiele repair scam; and (6) the PCGG cases.

In a recent letter to the editor, a Comelec official, Milagros Desamito, says that I should have quoted the dissent of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jz. on the case involving Comelec and the Mega Pacific consortium. Even if I published the dissent of the Cluef Justice in full, it would not have changed the fact that by a vote of 9-5, the Supreme Court decided to void Comelec Resolution 6074 awarding a contract for the supply of automated counting machines to Mega Pacific consortium. In its decision, the high court declared that "Comelec awarded this billion-peso undertaking with inexplicable haste, without adequately checking and observing mandatory financial, technical and legal requirements...the illegal, imprudent and hasty actions of the Commission have not only desecrated legal and jurisprudential norms but have also cast serious doubts upon the poll body's ability and capacity to conduct automated elections."

Review of Ninoy's murder: Not again!

WHAT is it about the murder of Ninoy Aquino that the question of who killed him (or ordered his killing) keeps recurring every time his birth or death anniversary is commemo-

It seems a new element is introduced every year to raise doubts about the validity of the 1990 Supreme Court decision convicting 15 soldiers of the defunct Aviation Security

Command for his death. This time, it's the Public Attorney's Office, an agency under the Department spearheading the

Citing the testimony of an alleged eyewitness and new forensic evidence, the PAO recently asked the SC to re-open the case so it can show that Rolando Galman, not Sgt. Rogelio Moreno (one of the convicted soldiers), shot Ninoy. If this theory is upheld, the soldiers will be set free and be entitled to compensation from the government for the wrongful con-

The basis for the PAO's action is "newly discovered evidence." It is evidence that was not available or could not have been secured during the trial but surfaced after judgment had been rendered and, if considered, may result in the

Since re-opening an already concluded trial for this rea-

Availability The new witness the PAO wants to present is the driver of

Aside from helping his embattled colleagues, the witness' statements would have buttressed the claim of then Presi-

Why is he coming out in the open only after 21 long years?

ing accused as a co-conspirator like his Avsecom colleagues.

Thus, after a careful evaluation of the evidence presented,

lake the interpretation of laws, forensic evidence is susceptible to varying interpretations depending on the training, orientation and outlook of the person reviewing the evidence. Unless it involves DNA testing, the conclusions of one forensic expert over a piece of evidence are as good as that made by a colleague in the profession. There is no monopoly

After 21 years, it's time to put the ghost of Ninoy's assassmanon behind us. There is nothing to gain from flagellating ourselves every year about this tragic chapter in our his-

The purpose for which the Almighty may have made it happen has been served—it put an end to the Marcos dictatorship and restored democracy in our country. Our courts have better things to do than waste time, money and effort

hearing a case that went through the judicial mill twice. Litigations in court cannot go on forever; they have to end at a certain point. The highest court of the land has, since 1991, ruled on the people responsible for the slaying of the most prominent member of the opposition during the mar-

Only God knows if the 15 soldlers really killed Ninoy, But as far as our legal system is concerned, they are guilty beyoud reasonable doubt. That decision was arrived at after a lengthy trial where the soldiers were assisted by their chosen

COMMENTARY of Justice, that's Raul J. Palabrica

move to overturn that judgment.

acquittal or reduction of the sentence of the accused.

son will result in setting aside the effects of the earlier proceedings, our courts are very strict in the evaluation of requests of this nature. The newly discovered evidence must not only be "brand new," it should be strong and convincing enough to justify hearing the case all over again.

the Avsecom van parked near the place where Galman allegedly gunned down Ninoy. From that angle, the witness was supposed to have seen Galman meak behind Ninoy and shoot him in the head. The witness was a member of the Avsecom at the time of

the incident. He was under military control and could have been ordered, under pain of disciplinary action, to testify on what he saw that fareful day. But why was he not presented by the soldiers' lawyers when the case was, first, investigated by the Agrava Commission and later tried by the Sandiganbayan? It would have been impossible for the lawyers to have overlooked the value of his testimony when they prepared the defense of their clients.

dent Marcos that Ninoy's slaying was part of a communist conspiracy against his administration with Galman as the hitman. Thus, the witness had no reason to fear for his life had he testified. He might have even been promoted for the

Durang all that time, his fellow soldiers languished in jail for a crime that, if the witness' testimony is to be believed, they

He can argue though that he made himself scarce to avoid being implicated in the murder charges. Now that the period within which the crime can be prosecuted (20 years) has lapsed, he can talk about his experience without fear of be-

Whether that line of argument will meet the criteria of newly discovered evidence is a big question mark. The rule remains that the mistakes of the lawyer are imputed to and suffered by his client.

Porensica

According to the PAO, the new forensic evidence relates to the question on where Ninoy was shot (on the bridge stairs or the tarmac?) and how the bullet entered and exited Ninoy's head (downward or forward?). The same issues were raised and discussed at length in the Sandiganbayan and later in the Supreme Court.

The forensic or medical investigation of Ninoy's slaying was exhaustive. Local and international medico-legal experts examined the crime scene, autopsy report, builet fragments and other physical evidence to determine who shot who and how and where. Since their findings and conclusions were made public, their critics had the opportunity to scrutinize them for possible errors. The consensus was, it was physically impossible for Galman to have shot Ninov

the tribunal ruled that the gunman was Sergeant Moreno, not Galman. Its reconstruction of the sequence of events and matching of evidence would have made Sheriock Holmes very happy

of knowledge in the medico-legal field.

Nightmare

tial law years. Right or wrong, that ruling is the final word on

Many of the wounds caused by Ninoy's murder have already healed. As this stage where our country is beset by serious social and financial problems, the last thing we need is a revival of political animosities and creation of new intrigues about the people who stood to gain from Nipoy's

More than enough has been said and written about the legal drams over his slaying. The rejenovele has run its full course; it's time to put an end to it and leave its cast of characters to the judgment of history.

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cies in the world.

3. In number of field investigators (the personnel responsible for securing evidence against corrupt government officials)—the ICAC has 837 field investigators for a bureaucracy of 174,175 or a ratio of 1,208 while the OMB has 87 field investigators for a bureaucracy of approximately 1.5 msl-

4. In terms of compensation—perhaps, we should not even try to make comparisons since ICAC personnel are among the highest paid in

Yet too few (deaths)

A FEW days ago, 600 people died in Aurora and in Nueva Ecifa. Last year, about 300 died in Southern Leyte. In 1991, 5,000 people died in Or-

Too few deaths to make a dent. At least 20 million Filipinos must first die from floods and mudslides. Include in the 20 million all the members of Congress, all the Cabinet secretaries, the President, Vice President, members of the judiciary, and the governors and mayors of all local governments. And include all their children, and all the priests and bishops of the Catholic Church. And for good measure, include me and my family. Then-and on-

ly then-will people begin to wake up! Yes, "sometimes words have to be a little wild, for they are the assault of thoughts upon the un-

One man is kidnepped in Iraq, and the whole country stops. Everything is done to rescue him, even at the cost of embarrassing ourselves as wimps in the international community.

Year after year, rain after rain, hundreds and thousands die of floods and mudshdes. We scream and howl, for one or two days. The Presstet again a long overdire ata about illegal logging. Some identic members of Congress call for an investigation and hog the limelight for a few days. After which the issue is buried deep in the mudshdes, conveniently for-

See what happened in Ormoc? Have the mountains been reforested? No, instead, millions and millions of pesos were spent to build dilust

along the rivers, as if that were the solution. Who is to blame? Illegal loggers? Legal loggers? Koungineros? Forest land conversion? Politicians-protectors? Inept members of Congress? The President (who, incidentally, seems to be more concerned about selling off the country to foreign mining companies and "investors" in the

COMMENTARY

Antonio A. Oposa Jr.

which encourages people to procreate as if priests were such authorities on procreation (or are they)? Local government officials? Or is it us, ordinary citizens who just turn our heads away and say, "that is the problem of government"?

Look at the mirror, and the answer is "All of the

"In the Laws of Nature, there is no right or wrong, there are no rewards or punishments, there are only consequences," We cut down the trees and convert forest lands for non-forest uses. No one gives a damn. The laws of man are easy to escape. Violators can pay a bribe (often), or pay a fine (rarely), or go to jail (even more rarely)

But then the Laws of Nature work by different rules. When we violate them, everyone pays, at one time or another. And we think we've seen the st? No, this is only the beginning. It will get much, much worse in the days, months and years to come-with stronger and more erratic typhoons, unusually heavy rains, more devastating floods and mudsl des, erosion, siltation, etc. This is not a matter of prophecy, this is a matter of cer-

tainty and basic common sense Yes, when we violate the Laws of Nature, there are no rewards or punishments, there are only

According to the topographic configuration of our land-in fact according to the Law-at least 50 percent of the country's land area must be devoted to forest uses. This is to ensure sufficient water supply, climate control and other forest services, commonly known as the "balance of ecolopursuit of wrong-headed economic progress)? gy." The other 50 percent may be devoted to agri-The members of the judiciary? The Church, culture, residential and other non-forest uses.

The following is a picture of what happened to our forest lands: Year 1900-70 percent oldgrowth forest; Year 2000-3 percent old-growth

Whose fault is this? Let us all take a huge mirfor and look ourselves in the eye

Yes, we want to protect our forests. But for heaven's sake, do we even know where they are? If we cannot even identify the forest lands, all the logging-legal and illegal-and the land conversions will go on uncontrolled. In fact, even our namonal parks have been appropriated by private people who hold illegal tax declarations (e.g., Mt. Palay-Palay National Park of Cavite, Cebu Central

Park, etc.) It is for this reason that the Constitution directs Congress to, as soon as possible, determine the final forest lines of the country with visible boundary markers on the ground. This was in 1987, Today-17 years after the Constitution was passed-neither Congress nor the President has done anything significant about it. Very good

They should all drown in the mudshdes This, sirs and madams, should be the first step conserving, protecting and rehabilitating (CPR) the forest. Yes, no less than an emergency Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) procedute for our forest is needed. How many deaths must it take to get this into our thick skulls? With out that first step, we can shout ourselves until we're red, white and blue in the face, and things will remain the same. But by that single and simole act of delineating the final forest lines-covering about 15.8 million bectares of our land area of 30 million hectares -- we will be on our way to beightened awareness of the significance of our forests. More importantly, this simple act will begin to convert our rage over the recurring deaths-and our sensitized level of awareness-

anto positive action. Antonio A. Oposa Jr. is an environmental advocate.

The instinct for honesty

I'VE sometimes wondered why "corruption" is the word used for acts of dishonesty committed by people in positions of trust. Corruption means debasement, decay, deterioration, weakening. These terms are usually applied to metal and, in particular, to living matter. So, what is it that de-

cays, deteriorates, or weakens in corrupt people? Is it morality? Virtue? But these are notions that change over time. I think that what corruption signifies when applied to human behavior is the weakening of instincts-in this case, the instiner for honesty. On this simple instanct depends many of our social institutions, instincts are sources of energy, and corruption is "energy in

The phrase comes from Nietzsche, who wrote: For there to be institutions, there must be a kind of will, instinct, imperative, which is anti-liberal to the point of malice, the will to tradition, to authority, to centuries of responsibility to come, the will to solidarity of generational chains stretching forwards and backwards in infinitum." When a person violates the trust that is lodged in his social role in a moment of opportunism, he weakens the institutional chain of which he is a vital

It is in this sense that one might explain the harshness with which US Army authorities at the Infantry School in Port Benning treated 2nd Lt. Rolly A. Joaquin after he was caught switching the discount tags for merchandise at the school's commissary. The misdeed involves the glorious sum of 50 cents. That was what Lieutenant Josquin, the brightest of his Philippine Military Academy class, stood to gain. In the context of Fort Benning's jealously protected institutional pride, dishonesty is not defined by the amount of money that is stolen. It is defined by the act itself—the breach of trust. Ambassador Ramon J. Parolan, himself a former military man, made a similar point in a previous column on this page.

It is a point that is largely forgotten in today's world, where the gravity of an act is typically reduced by referring to the material insignificance Public LIVES

Randy David



of what is gamed or taken. We know it is against the rules-it is not supposed to be done-but since the value is perty, it is therefore not really wrong. This mode of reasoning is only one step removed from other common techniques of neutratization, such as: "The value is small compared to what the government or the company earns," "I am entitled to it because I have paid for it," "No one gets hurt," "Everyone is doing it anyway," or

"The rules are stupid." The other day, after I spoke at a teachers' congress, somebody slipped me a note about high officials in state universities and colleges who abuse their privileges by habitually filling up their private vehicles with gasoline paid for by the government. The practice, I'm afraid, is as rampant as the unauthorized use of public vehicles for personal purposes. Petty at they may seem compared to large-scale graft, such practices constitute the model for more serious offenses in the

bureaucracy. What is this model? Even if we know it is wrong, we do it anyway because it is easy, and because it would be stupid not to do it. We don't even have to summon willfulness to do it. All that is needed is weakness, a lack of self-esteem and pride. Similarly, we do what is right not out of a sense of duty, or conviction, or instinct, but simply out of fear or lack of opportunity to do otherise. These are symptoms of a culture in decline.

Natural calamities may often challenge our will to live, but if they don't kill us, we might emerge from them stronger and more united. But corruption is something else. Its danger is insidi-

ous. It weakens the whole community and its effects are passed on across generations. In this sense, the fury of a thousand typhoons is nothing compared to the demoralization and cynicism that corruption in the military has brought upon

Discipline and duty are the hallmarks of the armed forces. No other institution draws its purpose more from the nation than the military. Thus, when the rottenness in the armed forces is exposed, what does this signify for the nation? It can only mean we have hit the limit, beyond which we cannot go further without calling into question the nation's very reason for being. At that point, we would do our people and the world a great favor if our leaders openly admitted failure and allowed the United Nations to supervise our affairs.

Although many of our people are leaving this country in desperation, I refuse to think we have already crossed the line in our seemingly irresistible drift toward decay. Yet the current situation is urgent enough to warrant a close examination of what the crisis of our institutions is telling

To my mind, it is warning us of the exhaustion of the sense of responsibility for the future. This is manifest in the growing inability of our young people to identify with anything worthly beyond themselves and their families. The Filipino nation as a collective undertaking seems so remote from their everyday concerns. National pride has become passé. Por many, there is hardly anything left in which to anchor a sense of personal honesty.

In times like these, heroic figures with immense energy usually come forward to revive the flagging spirits of a people. The slightest most accidental stimulus can often bring them out, says Nietzsche. I think we need not wait for a Flipino Napoleon to get us out of the doldrums. The power of consistent example in daily life by those whose instinct for honesty remains strong should turn the tide.

Comments to davidinguirer@yahoo.com

TALK of the TOWN

Did Pagasa bungle its job?

NA COUNTRY that is visited by an average of 19 typhoons or tropical storms every year, being forewarned of an approaching storm is being forearmed. Three typhoons ("Yoyong," "Violeta" and "Unding") and a tropical depression ("Winnie") hit the country between Nov. 19 and Dec. 2, bringing death and destruction to a wide swath of Luzon

As of Dec. 3, some 1,000 people had been declared dead or missing and billions of pesos worth of crops, livestock, infrastructure, homes and forests were destroyed.

Most of the victims were not warned of the flooding, landslides, turbulent seas, or even of the ap-

As a result, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pa-

gasa) has been accused of bungling its job. A storm enthusiast said that Pagasa did not issue a warning that Unding had changed direction and threatened Camarines Sur.

Fishermen and their families are mad at the Pagasa for not hoisting a storm signal over Oriental Mindoro when Unding was approaching the province. A number of fishermen, who even had transistor radios to monitor the weather, drowned when their boats were pummeled by waves spawned by

Pagasa claims that it did issue storm signals over Bicol and Mindoro, but these apparently came late. The warning did not reach the public-

We are mad at weather bureau

By Renato Aquino

ome of us, including our families, are mad at Pagasa because it did not report on the storm signal when Typhoon "Unding" was moving toward Mindoro. I hope Pagasa will announce the storm signal when there's a typhoon coming our way so we can take precautions.

The storm signal was raised over other places like Marinduque, Aurora and Quezon, "kaya ganun kami kapanatag (that was why we were that confident) "It was four days after Unding was announced that we felt its fury

On Nov. 19, as usual, I went out to lish because the waters were other and there was no report from Pagasa. Our group even brought a transistor when we put out to sea.

The following day, the clouds darkened, the winds became strong and we were experiencing big waves

At around 6 a.m., a buhawi (waterspout) hit us and turned our boat upside down. We immediately tied our hips and hands with a rope so that we would not be separated from our boat. When the boat began to sink, we held on to its, bamboo outrigger. We let ourselves be carried away by the strong current that's why we survived.

We reached Bulalação (southernmost town of Oriental Mindoro). We were pushed back by the current to Roxas ing Center (JTWC) [of the US Navy and US town then back again. We were going back and forth for an hour. The strong waves hit us. It was really painful and we did not have food to eat and water to drink. The others were feeling weak.

When we realized that the buhow was getting near us, we tried to swim deep into the water until we were just two feet from the ocean floor. We tried to catch some air. We did it several times.

We thought it was the end, Clouds were black and thick. The sea was churning. The winds were howling.

Eventually, the sea calmed down at around 2 p.m. and then men on a boat from Barangay Sumagui in Bansud town, which is next to Bongabong, saw us swim ming and waving. They rescued us and brought us to Sumagui first because the water current was strong in Bongabong. We where fed In Sumagui. Then we were brought home through land transport. That was already 11 p.m.

The following day, I went to the mayor but there were many people asking for help. So I left. Members of my family had worried because they had not seen me for

a day and a night. They learned that some of us were found dead. Other fishermen continued to look for missing colleagues

I would never forget that experience. Whenever I close my eyes, I see the big waves. Ayoko na sana. But I have no other means of livelihood. I'll fish again when the sea is calm in January.

(As told to Madonna T. Virola, PD! Northern Luxon Bureau. Aquino is a fisherman from Barangay Aplaya in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro)

'We are committed to give our best'

By Prisco D. Nilo, Ph.D.

This is to clarify some usures raised in connection with the news item in the Nov. 29 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer ("Pagasa bungled in Unding, says storm enthusiast, page A18")

The Philippune Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) issued the first Severe Weather Bulletin for Tropical Depression "Unding" at 11 a.m. on Nov. 14 with winds of 55 lph. Unding was then forecast to move in the direcnon of Samer-Bicol area and make landfall at Northern Samur and Sorsoyon in the afternoon of Nov. 17. Hence, storm Signal No. 1 was raised over Bicol and Samer provinces.

On the other hand, Joint Typhoon Warn-Air Force), which is based in Pearl Harbor, Hawati, issued a warning for Unding at 8 a.m. on Nov. 15 and predicted landfall in Northern Samar at B a.m., Nov. 16. It predicted that Sorsogon would also be hit.

The same forecast philosophy was adopted by Pagasa in its bulletins every sax hours until the 5 p.m. issuance of the Severe Weather Bulletin on Nov. 17. In accordance with this forecast, storm Signal No. 2 was raised over the Bicol region.

Erratic track

JWTC maintained the same forecast philosophy in its bulletins usued every six hours throughout the duration of Unding, always predicting landfall in one or two days since Nov. 15

However, Unding's track had been erratic beginning S p.m. on Nov. 15 until the morning of Nov. 19 as it intensified into a typhoon and drifted northward. At the same time. Unding executed a loop while over the Pacific Ocean at a distance of about 200 km east of Quezon province.

With the erratic movement of Unding, by 5 p.m. on Nov. 18 Pagasa decided to lower the storm signal in Bicol, taking into consideration the increasing number of stranded

passengers in various ports in the region.

In the afternoon of Nov. 19, storm Signal No. 2 was again raised over Catanduanes and the Camarines provinces. Signal No. 1 was raised over other areas as Unding moved southwest toward the Camarines area.

In the next bulletin issued at 11 p.m. on Nov. 19, storm Signal No. 3 was raised over Catanduanes and the Camarines provinces while storm Signals Nos. 2 and I were raised over other areas along the predicted path of Unding.

By 5 a.m. on Nov. 20, the storm signal over Mindoro and other areas along the path were raised to Signal No. 3.

There is, therefore, no truth to the claim of Michael Padus that Pagasa did not rause any storm signal as Unding moved in the direction of Camarines Norte on Nov. 19.

It is unfortunate that Fred Consulta, Weather Observer III of the Bicol River Flood Forecasting and Warning System (BRFFWS), based in Camaligan, Naga City had misrepresented himself as a wearher forecaster of Pagasa, In fact, his job is that of a hydrological technician in support of the activities of hydrologists at BRFFWS. The statements he made were beyond the function and expertise of personnel at the BRFFW5

We would like to assure our countrymen that as civil servants, we at Pagasa are committed to give our best and work round the clock during inclement weather to be of service to our nation.

(Nilo is officer-in-charge and deputy director for operations and services of Pagasa.)

Storm bulletins too Manila-based

By Jesse M. Robredo

7 hat happened to Naga City during typhoon "Unding" is a classic example of how bad our weather forecasting system has become On Nov. 19, at about 7 p.m., most of the Nagueños, just like in the ordinary days, were glued to their television sets, watching their favorite telenovelas. Downtown, all seats were taken at Lolo's Bar for a special concert by six-string artists from the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra

Except for the continuous rains and skietblowing winds, everything looked all right. Offices and schools were open that day. At night, most of the establishments were business as usual. Street lamps illumined the streets and vehicles were transporting passengers here and there. There was a storm hovering all over Bicol but many dis-

missed it as one of those tropical depressions that was no cause for serious a.arm.

Indeed, three hours before, Pagasa had sent out an advisory that typhoon Signal No. 2 had been lowered to Signal No. 1 in the Camarines provinces as the approaching Unding was slowing. It stalled somewhere north of Bicol with the center remaining offshore

Different story

Interviewed by a local radio station, I said the latest forecast from the Internet was telling a different story. I warned of a strong typhoon coming our way, and that we should be ready and pray that it change direction before nightfall. Of course, the people chose to believe Pagasa's official weather builetin over one that came from somebody, who has neither the expertise nor business on weather forecasting.

Was it "Noah's Ark" replayed with a modern setting? Many did not take it seriously that before the interview, I had consuited some local experts, who included Michael Padua, a professor who set up his own website (www.typboon200.com) that helps him track down weather disturbances from around the globe

Hearned that Unding (international codename "Muifa"), as early as Nov. 18, was declared by the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) a major typhoon with maximum sustained winds of 213 kph. By Nov. 19, TRMM showed that the typhoon continued to move across South Luzon. (Bical) with gusts of 150 to 180 kph.

Unding struck Naga City with its full fury ar around 9 p.m. Lights went down as thunder boomed and lightning lit up the skies. By midnight, all was strangely quiet. Worst since Sening

Down broke to reveal the city and its neighboring municipalities in Camarines Sur in disarray: streets and highways were strewn with uprooted trees and fallen electric posts; about 4,000 houses in the city were in social wreck while thousands more were badly battered, their roofs jettisoned in all directions; radio rowers and bill board frames were twisted beyond repair.

It was the worst typhoon that hit Naga and Camarines Sur since Typhoon "Sening" in 1970 and Typhoon "Rosing" in 1995. The typhoon's fury took all three hours, but the darnage done would take some time to repair. The Department of Agriculture reported that crops and marine products in Bicol worth P251.8 million were damaged and the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council said 28 people died in Camarines Sur alone

It was a most deplorable time to blame anybody. Everyone must look beyond the misery and devastation.

As if on cue, fellow workers at City Hall reported to my office first hour in the morning to map out plans for quick restoration works and disaster management. Out in the screets, dump trucks and bulldozers moved about as residents and barangay officials cut down failen trees along major road roads. Fortunately for us, the city's drainage system was fit to contain Unding's ramfall of 35 inches, which inundated vast tracks of farmlands in other areas, particularly those along the Bicol River.

Had there been fair warning, with a lead-time of at least six hours, damage to life and property would have been lesser. The ordinary Bicolano, for one, would have salvaged his ported siling labuyo, which makes lean food in the difficult days ahead taste better

On hindsight, we could not help but inquire into Pagasa's miscue on Unding Local weathermen at Pagasa-Camabgan, 7 km north of the city, told us they were merely issuing bulletins what the central office had furnished them and that public storm signals were hoisted upon clearance from Manila, They, however, admitted that their local weather station did not have enough equipment such as typhoon-tracking radars.

Siren, website Because we know that simply shaking our heads will not help, we at City Hall resolved to come up with initiatives at the soonest possible time within our means:

 As soon as power was temporarily restored in most areas of the city, we put up an independent weather forecasting center, in partnership with a local media outlet and the private sector, its main task is to broadcast unofficial weather builetins especially during abnormal weather conditions, with the Internet as the main too. This becomes more useful, considering that Pagasa's weather bulletins are "Manila-based," which at times mass local and actual conditions. Meanwhile, the city's website, naga.gov.ph maintains a 24-hour weather monitoring page, with occasional video streaming of the city's landscape where necessary.

· For good measure, a warming device (e.g. siren) will be installed at Plaza Quezon's clock tower to inform res dents of the typhoon signal. This warning device will automatically be hooked to a generator set from a nearby hotel to unsure ununterrupted service.

Cell phone chargers There will be a mechanism to make

lines of communication accessible at all times. For instance, standby portable bettery chargers during calamities and power failures will be made available at designated places for free charging by cell phone users.

 Disaster management teams must be arrengthened in all barangays and make sure they have trained personnel and basic equipment for relief assis, p tance and disaster contro.

With the availability of modern technology such as the internet, localizing g weather forecasting and typhoon-tracking system, while long overdue, proved to be double. With little help from the local. government unit concerned, all it requires is to pool resources through strong community involvement.

(Robredo, a Magsaysay awardee for government service in 2000, is mayor of Naº

What are the roots of the Luisita row? (2)

. The SDO is legal and moral

By Fernando C. Cojuangco

"I he real issue is the re-negotiation of the collective bargaining agreement lac (CAT), the sugar refinery which is notpart of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). It neither involves the CBA at Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) nor the stock dispersal option (SDO) that took place in the bacsenda 15 years ago.

Despite these restities, critics do not look at the illegal nature of the work stoppage at CAT Hacienda Luisita. They know it is a lost cause. What they say is that the issue has assumed agrarian dimensions, specifically the SDO scheme, which the Cojuangeo family and the farm worker beneficiaries (FWBs) had worked out in 1989. We will give them the pleasure of discussing the SDO if only to make this matter clear before the bar of public opinion.

The SDO scheme is both legal and moral. The nearly 5,000-hectare sugar plantation known at Hacienda Lustin is not owned solely by the Cojuangco family. Its owner is HLI, a firm, which is jointly owned by the Cojumgeo family, Turlac-Development Corp. (or Tadeco, the former owner of Hacienda Luisita), and about 5,300 PWBs, represented by Utilted Lazisita Workers' Uniop, its labor union. HLI's creation was the Copuangeo

(CBA) at Central Azucarrera de Tar- "family and the FWBs' way of complying with Republic Act No. 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL). Section 2 states: The agrarian reform program is founded on the right of farmers and regular farm workers, who are landless, to own directly or collectively the lands they tili."

Section 3 states that agracian reform means the redistribution of lands, and all other arrangements alternative to the physical redistribution of lands, such as production or profit sharing, and the distribution of shares of stocks, which will allow beneficiaries to receive a just share of the fruits of the land they work.

The truth, therefore, is that the SDO is allowed under the law and that the Columneco family and the PWBs scrapujourly followed the mandate of the law

How did the farmers express their agreement to an arrangement in which they own one-third of HLI? It must be noted that the farmers' shares of stock were given to them at no cost over a fairly short period of time. There are other benefits, which they receive way above what the law requires, The SDO was implemented in com-

pliance with the law. A memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed by Tadeco and PWBs on May 11, 1989. The MOA contains the terms and conditions of the SDO. Both the PWBs and Tadeco agreed to get into SDO in the MOA.

A referendam was instituted by them Agrarian, Reform Secretary Philip Ella. Juico. Of the 6,296 FWBs, 5,498 or 92.9 percent, approved and signed the MOA. A second referendum was called on Oct. 14, 1989 primarily to decide on the mode of CARL compliance—SDG or acruel land redutribution. After extensive information compagn conducted by then Secretary Minam Defensor-Santiago, 5,117 PWBs out of the 5,315 votes cast, or 96.27 percent, voted in favor of SDO.

On Nov. 21, 1989, the Presidential

Cabinet-level policy-making and governing body for CARL implementation unanimously approved the SDO as the mode of compliance for HIL and its FWBs. PARC includes representatives of both peasants and landowners' groups.

Aside from the free HLI shares of stock, the PWBs will get, on top of their regular compensation, an amount equivalent to three percent on the gross sales from the production of the plantation. The amount given to each farmerowner shall depend on the number of days worked. The FWBs are entitled to 4 sents on the 10-member HLI board of directors. Qualified family-beneficiaries were also given free home lots of not more than 240 agm.

On top of the benefits given under the SDO, HLI workers continue to receive salaries, wages and henefits, which have accumulated to over P3 billion from 1969 to June 2004. Free hospitalization is provided not only to HLI employees but also to their children and parents.

The SDO scheme has undergone a thorough process, making it perfectly legal.

Hacienda Luisita possesses peculiari-Agrarian Reform Council (PARC), the ties that make physical land redistribu-

tion not only impractical but also counterproductive. Its more than 5,000 farmer workers are not tenants as defined by law. They are largely seasonal farm hands. Moreover, if physical and redistribution is to be applied, each farm worker beneficiary would end up with less-than-a-hectare farmland, which means small-scale farming, or less productivity.

Unlike rice farming, sugar farming requires huge areas to become commercially viable. A land less than a hectare for each farmer would not be commercially viable. It is a recipe for economic suicide.

When the Cojuangeo family and the PWBs went to comply with CARL, they were confronted with two choices: the dogma of land redistribution or the pragmetic application of collective ownership through the SDO scheme. They chose the latter.

The current situation requires us to onlearn the old and learn the new, it calls for a paradigm shift in which new creative appronches become the norm, indeed, the murch of history is toward the eventual jettisoning of the old but dysfunctional dogmas.

(Cojuanges is the general coursel of Hacienda Lusita inc.)

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NPA help sought for missing mountaineer



THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

Evacuees share space with casualties of Typhoon "Winnie" at an evacuation center in Montalban, Rizal. The residents fied their homes as floodwaters rose at the height of the typhoon.

By Nestor P ,Burgos Jr. PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The mother of a mountaineer who disappeared in Antique province almost two years ago has sought the help of communist rebels in finding her son.

just his remains if he is already dead," said Marsha Gutierrez, mother of Leo Victor (Leovic) Gutierrez.

Marsha said she has sent a letter to Rogelio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippenes and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA), asking the help of the rebel group in locating her son or his body.

The NPA in Panay earlier accused the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) of abducting the mountaineer to collect ransom from the family. The RPA-ABB, however, has denied the accusation and offered to help find Leovic.

Marsha said she has repeatedly asked the help of the police and law enforcement agencies that are investigating her son's disappearance but there has been no breakthrough in the investigation.

Why is it keeping them so long?" she told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Leovic, of Mandaluyong City, disappeared in the Madia-as mountain ranges while mountain climbing

"I only want to find my son, even with friends from Metro Manila on Peb. 17, 2003. He has not been found despite a massive search operation covering the mountain ranges in Culasi town, 92 km north of the capital town of San Jose, Antique.

His disappearance has baffled his family and mountain climbers who knew him to be an experienced climber and a physical fitness instructor.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Western Visayas police director, said he has directed the Antique police to pursue the case even if investigators were not sure whether or not the mountaineer was still mive.

Leovic's family and relatives celebrated Mass at the Edsa Shrine on Nov. 22 on his 24th birthday.

Marsha said she has not stopped hoping and waiting that her son will be found. "I'm ready to accept whatever may have happened to him. But the longer it gets, the harder it will be solved," she said.

She has spent most of her time calling law enforcement agencies and the military for any updates on her missing son.

Camarines execs credit local readiness for low casualty rate

By Juan Escandor Jr. PDI Southern Luxon Bureau

PILI, Camarines Sur-Local chief executives here have credited the preparedness of the local disaster response groups for the low casualty rate in the province at the height of super Typhoon "Yoyong."

The officials also gave credit to the timely warning issued by the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) and the organized and coordinated inter-agency responses a day before Yoyong passed the province.

Unlike Typhoon "Unding" that made a di-35 dead, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) here has only reported six casualties on Thursday.

Except for a still-born baby, most of the typhoon casualties reported were fishermen who refused to heed the warning of Pagasa and still went out to sea on Wednesday.

Pagasa, who admitted it bungled with the forecast of Unding and issued typhoon Signal No. 3 at 10:30 p.m. as typhoon was already raging, has been precise and timely this time warning of all the possible paths that Yoyong would take.

Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., PDCC chair here, said the province has been able to respond to the howler's threat efficiently and appropriately because of closely coordinated efforts from the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Department of Health, Philippine Army, Navy, police and the Pagasa.

Villafuerte said all the agencies involved together with the 100 provincial government officials here have been able to make the rounds in the areas most vulnerable to flooding and landshdes in the eastern coast and river areas of the province.

He added that the closely coordinated rect hit in Camarines Sur on Nov. 19 and left move of the inter-agency disaster response group that was available to respond to Yoyong's wrath has been ready with food packs and medical assistance anytime 24 hours prior to Yoyong's expected passage

Yoyong roared close to Camarines Sur going to Aurora province starting in the late morning and enting late afternoon on Thursday.

The number of evacuated families has only reached some 5,000, a day after Yoyong came, compared to more than 30,000 when Unding unexpectedly veered toward Camarines Sur, two weeks ago.

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Vice mayor, 12 dads face contempt raps

By Alex Pal

PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—In what is probably the first case of its kind in the Philippines, a regional trial court judge has in trated criminal proceedings against the vice mayor and the 12 councilors of Bais City for indirect contempt, after they allowed a group of assau the decision of the court

Bais City officials led by Vice Mayor Francisco Villanueva, the presiding officer of the city council, all pleaded not guilty last Friday to the charge fixed by RTC Branch 45 Judge Ismael Baldado.

The others were Councilors Miguel Angelo Teves, Guillermo Ignacio Villanueva, Miguel Real, Yussef Yardley, Cesar Ybañez, Wington Chang, David Cabanag, Sr., Gerry Teves, Jessie Tam, Karen Villanueva, Avelino Maca-

landong and Lucille Avenido and city secretary Fernando Morales.

One councilor, Jeremuss Perez, failed to ap-

pear before the court, allegedly after meeting a vehicular accident on his way to Dumaguete City Friday dawn. Baldado, who was the complainant, prose-

cutor and judge in this contempt case, charged the defendants with unduly and unlawfully inprocesters to speak before the city council to terfering with the processes of the court and degrading the administration of justice. Baldado had ruled in favor of one of the

parties in a land dispute along the riverside in Bais City and had ordered the demolition of the houses of the losing party last November.

The losing brigants attended the city council session last Nov. 9 and criticized the court's decision while their companions were waving placards outside city hall, which contained the words "Justice for Sale!" "Court order is injustice" and other slogans.



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Body formed to act on threats to media

By Alex Pal PDI Visayas Bureau

NUMAGUETE CITY—A multipartite body hat will act on job-related threats to journalets is being formed in Dumaguete City.

, The body will be composed of representatives from the Dumaguete police, city gov-

The plan to form a body patterned after similar groups in the national level was made during a meeting Friday between the Dumagnete police and the media.

Supt. Constantino Barot, Damaguete police director, called for the meeting after noting the space of killings involving journalists in other parts of the country.

This year, 12 journalists have been killed in

the Philippines alone, adding to the more than 50 other killings in the past years.

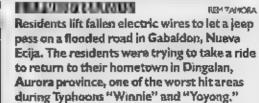
Barot, however, noted that in Dumaguete City, he has yet to receive reports of threats being made against a journalist.

A female reporter of radio station dyWC had reported receiving death threats in her house last Aug. 24 but the incident occurred ethinent, provincial government and the in the town of Bacong, which is outside of the jurisdiction of the Dumaguete police.

Barot said this example would require police to come up with a security plan that will allow policemen to cross political boundaries in case a similar incident occur in the

Barot assured media he would give security to threatened journalists. He, however, said he has no authority to issue permits to carry





Negros awaits GMA at agri, trade fair

By Alex Pal PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY--President Macapaga.-Arroyo has accepted the invitation of Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz to grace the National Agro-Trade Fair and Congress in Bayawan City.

The President is scheduled to visit Bayawan City on Tuesday at 3 p.m. She is expected to deliver a brief talk and return to Manile that same day, Arnaiz announced Friday,

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap will deliver the keynore address during the opening ceremony that will be held one day earlier.

With the theme "Dynamic Agriculture Sector Builds Strong Government," the agro-trade fair and congress, co-sponsored by the Central Visayas Agriculture and Fishery Council and the Department of Agriculture Region 7, will serve as a venue of exchange of new ideas and trends among stakeholders including input suppliers, producer-farmers and traders.

Bayawan City, headed by Mayor German P Sarana Jr., is spending P2 million for this activity, "We want to position ourselves as the agriculture center of Region 7 and help our farmers learn modern techniques in raising cash crops, said Bayawan City Vice Mayor Rene Gaudiel.

Highlights of the fair include the Bayawan Rodeo Compention on Dec. 8. There will be contests on fresh milk drinking, piglet catching, wood chopping, load carrying, cock carambola, bull riding, whip cracking, a ban

ca race and fish catching contest. Other lectures and demonstrations will be on ropics like meat processing, management of pests in vegetables, the potentials of the production of essential oils, production of hybrid nee, the effects of aflatoxin on com, market access, investment and tariff barriers and a cold chain system for fruits and vegetables.

Speakers include engineer Rene Burt Llanto, director of the Department of Science and Technology, who will speak on mango and jackfruit processing, Dr. Hernani Golez, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, on the cultural and integrated pest management of mango, Dr. Edwin Villar, director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development, on the production of goar, Prof. Rene Rafael Espino of the University of the Phil ppines Los Baños, on assue culture system in bananas, and a director of the US Agriculture Trade Office who will review the bilateral relationship in agricultural trade and development between the Philippines and the United States.



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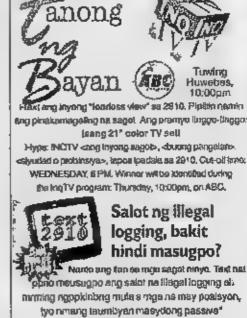












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Gerry Singson, Vigan City

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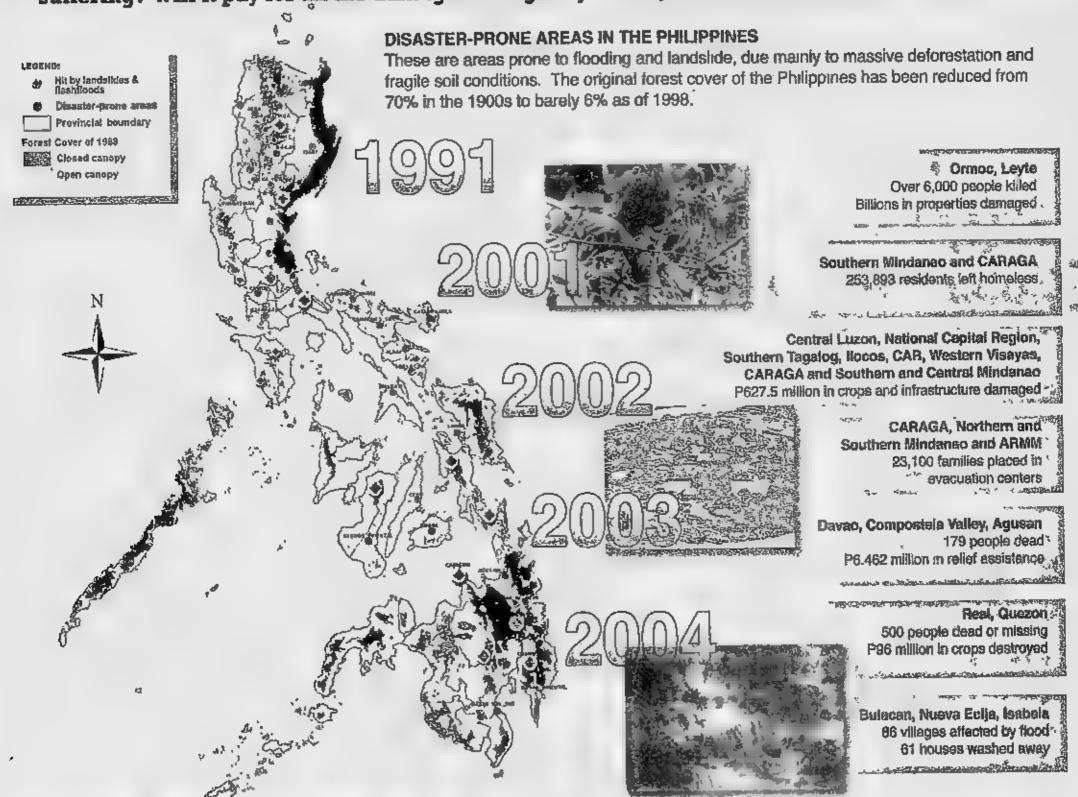
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The state of the s



Dr. RAMON Gonzales, ENT conducts surgical operation on a deft lip and palate patient at the St. Elizabeth Cranofacial Foundation Clinic. Assisting him is craniofacial nurse Ma. Aurora P.

Mission brings smiles to young new faces

By Aquiles Zonio General Santos City

THE VESTIGES of a disfigured face are now hardly visible a year after 2-year-old Mariel Lascuna underwent reconstructive surgery. Except for a speech defect (hyper nasality), one would not know that she once suffered from a bilateral cleft lip and palate.

On Sept. 16, Mariel imderwent a secondary palate operation. Since then and after 40-minute speech sessions every day, her speech improved by 60 to 70 percent.

Precious Pardilla was only 4 months old when she had surgery to repair sunilar deformities. She is now a year old, her face aglow and always smiling. It was "the best thing" that ever Adream

happened to the little girls, according to their parents, who were profuse with gratitude to their benefactors. Medical research shows that hare-

lip and cleft palate, which usually occur together, are congenital deformities affecting one in 800 births yearly. Poor maternal nutrition, trregular

prenatal checkup and infectious diseases during pregnancy are considered major contributing factors to the high incidence of facial deformities among children, almost all of them coming from poor families.

Teased and ridiculed

Children with barelip and cleft palate are often subjects of cruel teasing by some insensitive souls. Even right in their own homes, places that should have provided them emotional and psychological succor, they are not spared from ridicule.

The thought of holding so ugly would haunt them for a long time. As they grow up, they wonder why they must bear the pain of having physical deformities?

Some, especially those in far-flung

places where health and medical services are not accessible, may be emotionally and mentally torrured throughout their life.

In General Santos City, the setting

up of an institution extending free reconstructive surgery, hospitalization and care to long-suffering victims of these deformities, offers significant changes in the life of these children. in the course of his travels in the

Visayas and Mindanao as district governor of Rotary International District 3860 from 1997 to 1998, Dr Jesus Veneracion saw a lot of children suffering from such facial defects, most of which were inborn and others inflicted by abusive parents.

His heart bled, he said, thinking that most of the children came from poor families who could not afford to pay the cost of operation. For instance, a single harelip surgery, he said, would cost between P15,000 and P25,000.

Veneracion, who owns the St. Eliza beth Hospital, began to dream of putting up a charity clinic devoted to the surgical repair of facial deformities. One day, while he was discussing a

plan to put up a business producing distilled water with Sam Noordoff, he shared his dream with his partner. Noordoff manufactured and distributed machines used in the production of distilled water.

Noordoff promised Veneracion that he would take up the project with his father Samuel, who is engaged in the same profession. A few days after, he called up the Filipino doctor and told surgeons based in Taipei, had scheduled a trip to General Santos.

When the team arrived, Veneracion learned that the elder Noordoff was a world-renowned plastic surgeon and head of the Noordoff Craniofacial Fouridation of Taipes. The visiting surgeons conducted free reconstructive operations on 37 harelip and deft palate patients.

Noordoff agreed to establish an extension of his foundation in the

Philippines. Thus, the non-profit St Elizabeth Hospital Craniofacial Foundation, Inc. came into being

Several other medical missions to conduct free surgery on children with craniofacial deformities followed Noordoff's visit.

On Jan. 24, 2000, the foundation sent a team of doctors to Taiper to undergo special training at the Chang-Gung Memorial Hospital. Travel and training costs were shouldered by the Noordoff Cramofacial Foundation, St. Elizabeth Hospital and the Chang-Gung Memoria, Hospital.

ENT specialist Dr. Ramon Gonzaies, anesthesiologist Dr. Edgardo Homez and occupational therapist Myrjhan Yumang were trained on plastic surgery, pediatric anesthesia and speech pathology, respectively.

On Sept. 4, 2000, about a couple of months after they returned, Gonzales and his colleagues started conducting surgical operation on harelip and cleft palate patients at the St. Elizabeth Hosonal craniofacial clinic inside the hospital. Since then, they have performed one to two operations every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday,

Noordoff and his medical team visit every six months to conduct operations on serious and complicated cases of harelip, cleft palate and other facial defects.

Free surgery

Veneracion said the clinic had been operating year-round and patients had come from as far as the Visayas

"The St. Elizabeth Crantofacia. him that Samuel and two other plastic. Clinic is now the center for the whose Mindanao. It's bigger than the one operating in Manila," he said.

The cland has examination-treatment, dental, photography and audiometry rooms. Its equipment, including mainte-

nance budget, came from donations. Veneracion said most of the pa-

tients referred to them were children. More than 800 operations have already been undertaken in the clinic since it was set up.

Plays as pathways to peace

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing Cagayan de Oro City

Tala! A Christian woman married a Manobo farmeri" exclaimed a young girl while watching couple's passionate

Her face lights up when someone whispered to her, "Why not, if you love and respect each other?"

courtship dance on stage.

This was the scene of the Davao City-based Kaliwat Theater Collective's pop ethnic musical "Oyal Arakan," one of Mindanao's landmark plays that was showcased in Dalan sa Kalinaw (Pathways to Peace), a grand production featuring the island's best stage musicals produced the past 25 years.

Held on Oct. 8 at Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro City, the project was produced by the Cultural Center of the Philippines through its outreach and exchange program, in partnership with the Mindanao Community Theater Network (MCTN), an organization of theater artists and cultural workers.

took center stage. They were the "Halik Sa Kampilan" of the Sining Kambayoko of the Mindanao State University in Marawi City, "Datu Maru" of the MSU thgan Performing Arts Group, "Maranatha" of the Tubod community in Lango del Sur, and "Lawig Balanghai" of Butuan City.

Skillfully mounted by director Nestor Horfilla, the two-hour production paints the colorful and dynamic landscape of the people's struggle for self-determinanon, told all the way from the arrival of Spanish conquistadores and the American invaders to the turbulent Christian, Muslim and himad's seemingly endless conflict and marginalization.

This is Mindanan captured in the artists' mind and memory," says Pe Remorigue, a poet, playwright and former MCIN chairperson. "And it is a wonderful opportunity for the audience as they watch their history unfold, told with a creative but sensitive perspective."

Likewise, the production summarizes the local artists' struggle, commument and creative passion as they rode on the moods and temper of contemporary times. Like the ancient tribal storytellers and healers, the artists were mediums

Four other significant musicals telling "who we were, what we are now,

and probably where we are going." The issue on the search for peace brought into realization that peace searching was a common element on the landmark plays, regardless of the violence.

"Our people have always longed for understanding, not division, tolerance. not conflict," said Brigitte Donos-Espinosa, a cultural worker from Butuan.

The production gathered the leading and aspiring names of Mindanao theater-Steven Parrick Fernandez of Ipag, Sunny Noel and Eustess Guia of Kambayoka, Nestor Horfilla of Kallwat, Geejay Arriols of Davao, and Fr. Dong Galenzoga of Lanac, along with acclaimed musicians Popong Landero, Waway Saway of Bukidnon and Titing Trinquire of Butuan.

"Isada kaayo (So very nice)," comments a middle-aged woman, who accompanied her daughter to the show. The songs and dances were spectacular and I didn't realize how the Mus-lims and lumed have gone through. 1 can see we shared the same fate."

The full story has been finally told and shared, this time accepted with an open mind and sensitivity.



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begins and life goes on.



RELIEF has come at last for these children in Dingalan, Aurora, one of the hardest hit by the successive storms that battered the country. For starters, a ball and stuffed toys bring smiles to the children, and about time, too.

GMA suspends all logging

From page A1

program to prevent the recurrence of deadly floods.

 A longstanding proposal in the Senate by Minority Leader quilino Pimentel Jr. calling for a 25-year total log ben gained ground, with more than a dozen senators pledging to support his Senate Bill No. 1150

Environment officials estimate the country's actual forest cover at seven million hectares

About 200,000 hectares of forest areas are destroyed annually through legal and illegal logging, and slash-and-burn farming, Pimentel said. Other experts say less than 3 percent of the country's primary forest remains intact.

 In the House of Representatives, Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said most congressmen backed a similar tota. log ban proposal and predicted a law to that effect would be passed in "record time."

Heinous criminals

We are determined to make responsible widespread death and destruction pay the price for their misdeeds, and we shall prosecute them the way we do terrorists, kidnappers, drug traffickers and other helnous crimmass," Ms Arroyo said in her statement.

"I urge Congress to amend exintra strentstratement access to mu_ett iffi against illegal loggers and their cohorts, including erring government officials and law enforcers who are abetting the destruction of our forest lands," she said.

Malacañang backed the dismissal of officials found to have tolerated or benefited from illegal logging activities.

"This thing could not have happened without the knowledge of some officials so it is important that a thorough investigation is conducted," Press Sec-RMN radio.

Evidence needed

Bunye said Ms Arroyo was bent on going after illegal loggers by appointing retired Gen. Victor Corpus as reforestation CERL (Story on Page Al.)

Asked about allegations linking the family of an opposition senator to Liegal logging in Aurora, Bunye said this should be left to the proper authorities to look into.

"It's not good to name names without evidence. I'm sure that there will be an investigation and that is already being done by the [DENR]," he said.

Nograles said logging licenses should be suspended until Congress had adopted a stand on the proposed 25-year logging

"We don't want these logging companies to cut everything that is within their concession area in anticipation of this total log ban measure so I recommend the immediate suspension of all logging licerates," he said.

Nograles said the tragedy that struck the country should serve as a wake-up call for Congress.

Give nature time

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay wanted a more thorough atudy of the log ban proposal.

Pichay stressed that the impoaltion of a total log can could be counter-productive



COMPUTE the sum total of the violence of the storms by looking at the turnultuous array of logs that now clogs the shoreline of infanta, Quezon province.

"We saw this in Negros, where a total log ban was imposed in 1982 to protect its forest cover which had dwindled to just 30 percent. But what happened after the ban?" he said. "In just three years, the forest cover in Negros fell to only 8 percent because of rampant wood-cutting and illegal logging which the authorities were powerless to

Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy and retary Ignacio Bunye said on Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio called on the police and the Armed Forces to revemp personnel manning checkpoints for failure to monitor log wans-

Pirmentel warming

"Illegal loggers will find it hard to neutralize the DENR-AFP-PNP monitoring teams because their members will be constantly replaced to discourage connivance," said Uy.

In the Senate, members of both the administration and opposition blocs expressed support for Pimentel's log ban bill, 14though with some reservations.

Failure to adopt the measure would "spell more ecological disasters of catastrophic proportions in the future," Pimentel warned. He said his bill had been repeatedly blocked by powerful logging interests since

it was first proposed in 1987. "We must put the survival of our forests and preservation of ecological balance over and above the selfish economic interexts of a privileged few," he said.

10 years in jail

Under Senate Bill 1150, any violator of the law shall be penalized with five to 10 years in jail. If the violator is a juridical entity, its license or permit to do business in the country shall be automatically revoked and it shal, be fined from P500,000 rq

Industrial tree plantations will not be covered by the prohibition so that they can meet the wood requirements of the paper, construction and furniture in-

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senators Jamby Madrigal, Edgardo Angara, Manuel Villar and Richard Gordon interposed no objections to

Minority supports bill

Pimentel said "most" of the nine-member minority would support his bill.

Although confident that the bill would not face rough sailing in the Senate, Pimentel admitted some members of the Lower House might oppose the idea, "unless [Ms Arroyo] pushes for it very strongly."

Sen. Pia Cayetano agreed in principle to a halt in logging operations in major timber areas but was worried about its impact on the livelihood of people subsisting on small logging opera-

Madrigal proposed a longer ban-maybe 50 years-to allow the forests to replenish them-

Pimentel said that of the country's 15 million bectares of forest at the start of the 20th century, less than seven million hectares were left, including 800,000 hectares of virgin for-

Role of prisoners, students

Gordon's proposed bill would allow prisoners and student volunteers to take part in reforestation in areas accessible to them.

"I will ask that even prisoners who are not hardened criminals be sent to plant trees on mountains," Gordon said.

Only inmates convicted or awaiting judgment for petty or minor crimes would be enlisted in the reforestation cam-



FOOTNOTE to disaster: Melvin and Leigh Serrano made it through inch-deep muddy trails with their twins Ivory and Ivon before they were airlifted from Infants to Camp Nakar in Lucena City. ACCENTAGENCE

paign, he said. He said that to allow students . to do their share, tree-planting could be incorporated into their curricula or serve as an alternative to the Reserved Officers Training Course.

Subpoena Defensor

Leaders of the left-leaning fisherfolk alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) urged hawmakers to investigate large-scale logging operations in Aurora and Quezon.

Pamalakaya urged the Senate to subpoena Defensor and demand from him the master list of all logging corporations operating in the two provinces. With a report from Tina G., Syntos,



CHILD at play is safely within his parents' world at the enacuation cancer at the Dingsian Central Elementary School.

SUERTRES

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(In exact order)

Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/city/massage to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Cops in trouble with the law get help

By Leila B. Salavertia

EVEN policemen can have their brush with the law.

When such a thing happens in Mansla, law enforcers have someone to give them tegal advice and

The Legal Assistance for Manila Policemen (Lamp) was put up in 2002 by retired Jawman Jaime Santiago to help the men in uniform.

"I know the pught of police men. They are always being harassed. When they do their job, people they arrest are never bappy," Santiago, who became known for being a sharpshooter of the Western Police District (WPD).

Harassed

"How can policemen maintain peace and order if they themselves are being harassed?" he added.

Santiago said a private lawyer usually charges P10,000 or more as acceptance fee and P5,000 for cutor in Manila in October 2003. every appearance in court or at the prosecutor's office.

Then comes the dilemma.

According to Santiago, a policeman's pay was not enough to cover the costs of htigation.

This kind of situation, he said, forces some policemen to get financing in other ways,

"Because of the legal fees they have to pay, some policemen resort to corruption," he said.

Santiago said corruption comes in at least two forms: "public rela-

tions" and outright extortion.

Public relations means borrowing money from "patrons."

This practice makes the lawman beholden to a person and may affect the future performance of his duties, he said.

To help good policemen stay good Lamp provides them with mexpensive legal service. But first, a Manila policeman should become a member of the group.

For P500, a Manila policemen can become a afetime member of lamp, which entitles them to a huge discount in services.

Low fees

The case acceptance fee of Lamp lawyers is P2,000 per case for members, while the appearance fee ranges from P500 to

While Santiago founded Lamp, he has left the organization after becoming an assistant city prose-

Lamp is now handled by his former law classmates Wilhelmina Macaraeg, Josepto Frial and Salvador Establico.

"I convinced them about the need to help policemen by informing them of the latter's plight," Santiago said.

Macaraeg said Lamp currently has over 1,000 members and has handled over 100 cases.

Although formed to help law times accepts clients from police



FORMER police sharpshooter Jaime Santiago aimed for a different target when he formed a lawyers' group that aims to provide incopensive legal service to lawmen.

districts outside Marilla.

Santiago said Lamp usually would not turn away these poheemen, especially when endorsed by friends.

Most of the cases handled by enforcers from the WPD, Lamp at Lamp deal with complaints of robbery extertion, physical injuries,

pass to dwelling, breach of the ments, while some were late peace, assault and oral defamation.

Macaraeg said poncemen who come to them with persona, cases were charged a slightly higher acceptance fee.

She related that some of their me fruits or ceil phone load when cent

administrative cases, drugs, tres- cilents were prompt in they pay-"But that's okay," Macaraeg said.

She said the policemen unable to immediately settle their accounts eventually pay their dues

"Sometimes policemen give

they cannot yet pay me in cash, said Macaraeg, adding that beingable to help lawmen in trouble, was enough to make her happy She said it was best for police:

men to get a lawyer's help when, faced with a legal complaint. 14

"A lawyer's assistance is unportant," Macaraeg said.

Familiar need

The importance of the service. provided by Lamp was something, Santiago knew only too well

When Sentiago was with the WPD as a member of its Special Weapons and Tactics team, he was charged for the fatal shoot, ing of a man who had taken a child hostage.

While the case against him was: being evaluated by the Manila Prosecutors Office, he got into a fight with one of the prosecutors. Soon, he said, no Manila prosecti-3

tor wanted to hear his case. The case was later brought to the Department of Justice, where; it was subsequently dismissed.

He said that experience heights. ened his resolve to give policemen access to lawyers.

The 46-year-old Sannago had, served the police force for 21 years before deciding to retire

early in 2001 It was during his stint as a policeman that he became a lawyer, passing the bar on his first take in-1994 with a grade of 81.65 per-





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Aid pours in for typhoon, flood victims

By Leila B. Salaverria

IT WILL be pouring again in areas devastated by rain and floods although this time people will be coming out to welcome the down-

Instead of rain and floods, this shower will be of aid and relief from all over the world.

Yesterday, the European Union's executive arm released one million euros (P75,000,000) in emergency aid for victims of devastating storms in the country.

Appeal sent out by the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) has produced P43 million worth of donations and pledges, according to PNRC secretary general Victor Liozo in a statement.

On top of these, World Vision, an international nongovernment

child welfare and community development, has promised P35 million in relief goods.

And on a much smaller, yet more personal way, members of the Coast Guard have set sail to Quezon on board Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas San Juan tn bring aid and provide medical services to victims.

Pinoys in Hong Kong

Meanwhile, the Filipino professionals working in Hong Kong donated P100,000 to the relief ef-

The donation was coursed through the Philippune Daily Inquirer by Leo A. Deocadiz, vice chair of the Philippine Assocation of Hong Kong.

Deocadiz, a former PDI busi-

organization that focuses on new editor, now publishes The Sun, a Vilipino community paper in the Special Administrative Region of China.

As many as 1,000 people have been reported killed or missing after two storms and two tropical depressions swept in close succession through many parts of the country. (See related story on page A1.)

The European Commission said its one-million euro donation would be channeled through aid agencies in the devastated areas to provide immediate relief such as emergency shekers, water and canitation.

"In situations like this, it is our duty to respond immediately," EU aid commissioner Louis Michel said, while adding that a commission relief official has been sent to survey longer-term needs.

30,000 cures (P2,26 million) toward the relief effort in the Philippines.

With the surge of donations following the appeal by PNRC chair Sen. Richard Gordon, the group said it had intensified its relief effort by sending truckloads of food and non-food items to Red Cross chapters in typhoon-affected provinces.

Three-day supply

Gordon said the P43 million that the PNRC received would only cover the immediate needs of worst hit families, who will receive food supply for three days and starter kirs.

Food will consist of rice, canned goods, noodles and dried

The Belgian government, fish, while the starter kits will in-meanwhile, said it was giving clude cooking and eating uten-Ror the long-term sils, water containers and sleeping materials.

Gordon said the PNRC would need some P57 million more for sustained relief operations.

He added they aim to serve at least 50,000 families, but so far had served only 12,000 families.

For its part, World Vision said it would be providing relief goods to 21,500 families in Quezon, which was one of the areas hardest hit by the recent weather disturbance.

Daba Liban said they would focus on the towns of Real, Infanta and Camp Nakar, where each beneficiary family will get 25 kilos of rice, four liters of water, a can of biscuits, canned goods, noodles, blankets, flash-

For the long-term, the group plans to build water systems and install generators to help victims rebuild their lives and their com-

Serving in the manner they know best, the Coast Guard sent one of its ships to Quezon to help bring much needed supplies, which could not be brought over by land or air.

The BRF San Juan left Manila at 2:25 a.m. yesterday and is expected to arrive today in Real.

It has a medical team and an operating room to serve those most in need of medical attention.

Coast Guard Commandant Vice Admiral Arthur Gosingan flew to Real yesterday to assess the damage. With a report from

. 10

Lawyers group helps suspects get due process

By Nancy C, Carvajal

CRIME suspects can themselves become vic-

Pifteen-year-old Anna (not her real name) has been detained at the Paraflaque City Jail since November facing murder charges.

Two other minors, both 13 year-old boys, have also been in jail for theft, detained with grown-up law offenders.

The two boys are accused of stealing P880 and two cans of corned beef.

The canned goods were recovered and P820 was returned to the owner after they were arrested the next day.

"We bought pancit, soft drinks and played two sets of billiards with the P60 that we were not able to return," the two minors said in Fil-

P12,000 bail

The two 13-year-old minors were charged with robbery and bail was placed at P12,000

Something was wrong, a group of lawyers The children, although facing charges,

should not be mixed with adult suspects. Roger Sison, a member of the volunteer

group Pro Bono, said Anna's rights were vio-She should be under the care of the Depart-

ment of Social Welfare and Development, he

"Because she is a minor, her legal counsel can ask the court to let her go back to school under the supervision of DSWD and should not be incarrerated at a detention jail," Sison

Meanwhile, the two other minors can be sent to reform institutions or can be placed in the custody of their parents or guardians.

Close monitoring

Sison said they would coordinate with the lawyers of these minors and would closely monitor their progress, "We hope that they will be home with their

family this Christmas," he added. Pro Bono, according to Sison, is a group of

close to 50 volunteer lawyers funded by businessmen, whom he refused to name.

"Suffice to say that these businessmen want to do their share without publicity" he Pro Bono's objectives, according to Sison,

are to assist and provide legal assistance to persons unduly oppressed, unjustly accused of crime, unable to hire services of counsel, victums of human rights violations and others. "This is also our way of helping de-congest

our jais," he said. * Records showed that 826 inmates were detained in a jail designed for 300.

Thirty six of those detained at the Parañaque City Jail are minors.

Gunmen kill 2 in Marikina shooting

THREE motorcycle-riding suspects ambushed a soldier and his live-in partner yesterday morning in Marikina City, the police said.

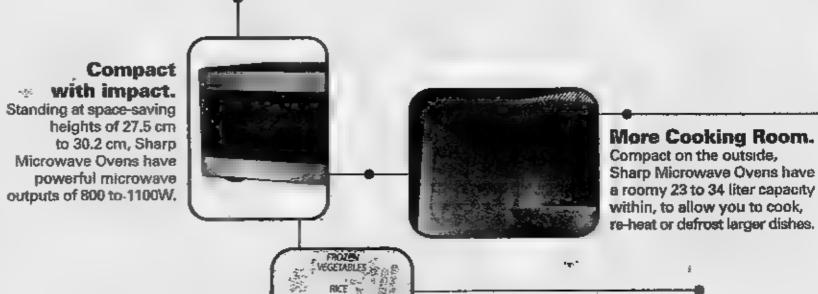
The police identified the victims as Army man Victor de los Santos, 29, and Rhea Ann Fernandez, 23,

"The suspect was looking for the victim's brother. When he could not find his target, he just shot the victims," Sr. Supt. Fehpe Rojas Jr., city police chief, said.

The soldier and his partner were walking inside the Balubad Settlement in Barangay Nangka when the suspects struck.

Chief investigator SPO4 Celso Cruz said the prime suspect, a certain "Michael," was looking for the brother of De los Santos.

The brother, Elmer, was reportedly involved in a love triangle with Michael. Luige



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Editor Teddyvic S. Melandres

Sta. Lucia faces Shell; Pals vs Tigers

RESH from taming the best Lucia Realty tries to drop the upset ax on another big fish when it faces Shell today at the resumption of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

against the Crusaders while the Wolverines

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

clash with the Fighting Irish.

STANDINGS Talk 'N Text Barangay Ginebra Shell Purefoods San Miguel Beer Red Buil FadEx Coca-Cola Alaska Realty **GAMES TODAY** (Araneta Coliseum)

4 p.m.---Coca-Cola

vs Talk N Text

6:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia.

Realty vs Shell

The Realtors, still in a state of bliss after squeezing past the leading Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in a recent out-of-town encounter, will be oneing with confidence in their 6:30 p.m. date against the Turbochargers.

After a 0-6 start, the Realtors (4-8) have won four of their last six games, punctuated by a 104-102 squeaker over the Phone Pals last Tuesday.

The Phone Pals, still in the lead at 10-2, hope to recover lost ground against

the floundering Coca-Cola Tigets in the curtain-raiser at 4 p.m.

The Tigers (5-9) will have to watch out for Jimmy Alapag and Willie Miller, one of the hortest backcourt randems in the league, to avoid a fifth straight setback.

Marlou Aquino fired 29 points against the Phone Pals and is expected to give Shell a lot of match-up problems along with Dennis Espino and Kenneth Duremdes.

The Turbochargers are running third behand Talk N Text and Barangay Ginebra at 9-5 following their win over the Alaska Aces last

Humbled by the Purefoods TJ Hordogs only last Thursday, the Tigers are in dire need of

Coach Chot Reyes said Coca-Cola's problem is internal, adding that the Tigers have yet to play as one cohesive unit following the trade that gave them Ali Peek and John Arigo from the Aces

"We experienced the same phenomenon before the team won two championships beginning in 2002. It normally happens to teams which tinkered with their lineups," said Reyes.

The same holds true for the Aces, who are playing inconsistent ball since acquiring Jeffrey Cariaso and Reynel Hugnatan from the

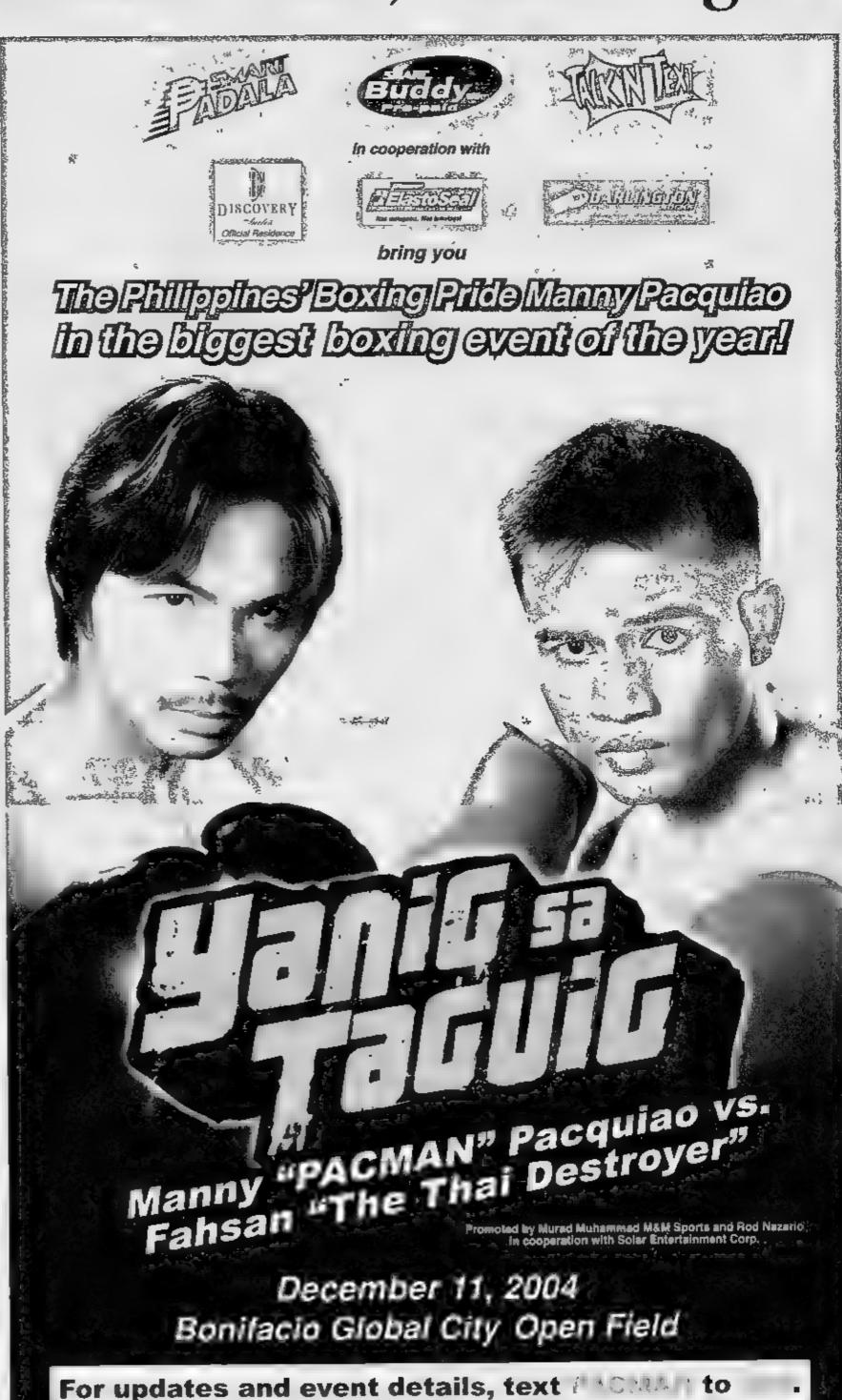


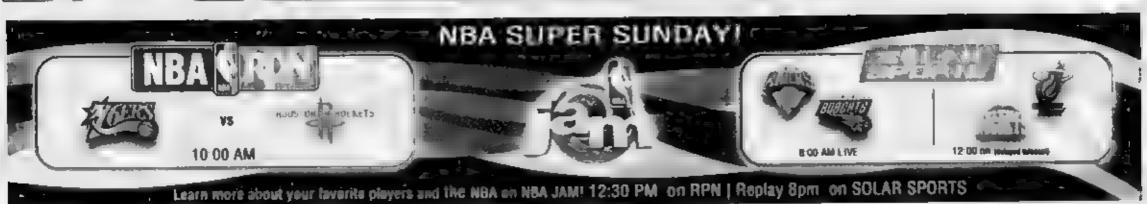


R booters tackle Davao in semifinals /A26



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PSC spikers gun for 3rd win vs Lady Tams

By Musong R. Castillo

COACH Tats Suzara swears that his Philippine Sports Commission team is in younger set of players.

He never thought he would be making an entire crowd rally behind a set of veterans plucked out from odd jobs and retirement to dominate a young league with a un.

way we play," Suzara said moments after

fledging league. "It has given my players the extra wave of confidence and the boost to play hardez."

Play hard is what the PSC Lady Spikers the Shakey's V-League only to inspire the have done and will do once again when they coilide at 1 p.m. today with a Par Eastern side itching to become the first to claim their scalp at the resumption of the eliminations at the Ninoy Aquino Stadi-

"This has become a different story. "The crowd has started enjoying the We're winning games and it feels good," Suzara added, not minding the fatigue nailing down a second victory in the factor that could affect his team which



3 p.m.---Letran vs Santo Tomas will be playing their third game in seven

Of course, farigue can be a factor. But

we have come up with a training program to avoid burnout for the players early. We know that this is a long tournament and that we could be playing every other day. We did something for that," said Suzara, whose players have an average age of 34.

Meanwhile, defending champion Santo Tomas clashes with Letran, seeking a second straight victory after ripping La Saile in four sets in the inaugurals Sunday

The Tigresses trade spikes with the Lady Knights in the 3 p.m. contest installed as the logical picks because of a lineup aleevery day."

ready teeming with talent and reinforced by two nationals.

Roxanne Pimentel and Rubie de Leon are standing at the vanguard of the Santo

Tomas offense, "If I can get this team to be consistent,

we can go a long way in this tournament," said August Sta. Maria, the man behind the successful Santo Tomas volley program the last 25 years.

"We have the ratent, true. But winning tournaments takes more than that and that is what I am trying to tell my players

Futsal tilt on with 4 games

SAMES TODAY (Hollo Sports Complet) 1 p.m.---Opening caremonies 2 p.m.--lioño vs Laguna 3:30 p.m.---Oriental Mindoro vs Bacolod 5 p.m.—Tarlac vs Cebu 6:30 p.m.—Rizal vs Cagayan de Gro

ILOILO CITY-Iloilo, a traditional football power, collides with Laguna as the first PFF-adicias Futsal Championship kicks off today with an explosive 4-game bill at the Iloilo Sports Complex covered

After an austere opening rites at 1 p.m., to be graced by top local officials as well as the top brass of the Philippine Football Federation and the sponsoring adidas, Iloilo and Laguna clash at 2 p.m. Bacolod, the host's arch rival, opens its title bid against Oriental Mindoro at 3 p.m. while Cebu, another team to watch in the four-day affair Sorganized by the Iloilo Pootball Federation and a nosted by the provincial government headed by Gov. Neil D. Tupas, tangles with Tarlac at 5 p.m.

Cagayan de Oro, which arrived here as early as Thursday, faces dangerous Riza, Province at 6:30 p.m. with the hopes of stealing the limelight from the big guns being the only team from Mindanao.

PFF president Johnny Romualdez sees a tough but extiting battle for the championship as all eight teams are ranng to become the first champion team of the five-a-side indoor game which is a combination of soccer and basketball.

"It's going to be a close and excurng contest, all teams are capable of winning the championship," said Romualdez who expects a huge crowd to watch the event since the flonggos are known for their passion for soccer.

Futsal is an abbreviation of the Spanish "futbol ala," meaning "indoor soccer" Unlike the regular soccer match, each team will field only five players, including the goalkeeper, and will play for 40 minutes on a basketball-size court.

"So expect a fast and furious action from Day 1." said tournament Commissioner Pablito Araneta of this indoor sport which is now a big hit in Europe and some parts of the Middle East. "Everybody can play this sport and this is good for our UNDER-14 champion football teams 12 years old or younger, to participate several of the 30 provincial football Southridge School remain in con-

budding soccer players." The eight teams will be divided into two groups with the top two teams after the singleround elims advancing to the crossover semifinals. There the No. 1 team of Group A faces the No. 2 team of Group B and the top team of Group B battles the No. 2 of Group A.

"Futsal is an ideal manner of promoting football among the basketball-loving Filipinos," said Romunklez, "The game is normally played indoors and the ball used is smaller and less bouncy than a normal football so it doesn't fly all over*



ADIDAS U-19

NCR booters tackle Dayao in semifinals

■ HE NATIONAL Capital Region (NCR) football squad joined reigning champion Iloilo, Davao and host Cebu in the semifinal stage of the PFF/adidas Under-19 Championship with a 4-1 rout of Ihgan Friday at the University of San Carlos pitch in Talamban, Cebu City.

The Metro Manda teenagers, although undefeated in Group B, finished behind rivals Iloilo by goal difference. Davao topped Group A followed by the

With Philippine football's natural order in place, the 'do-or-die' semifinal crossover kicks off today at 10 a.m. with NCR taking on Davao followed by the duel of two Visayan squads at 1 p.m.-Cebu versus Iloilo. The winners collide on Monday for the premiere Under-19 trophy in the country today.

Iligan, solid at the back like good Italian defenders for 73 minutes, crumbled to NCR's Mark Lusung by allowing the striker two goals in the next five minutes. Additional goals by Francis otherwise engrossing game. R

was a disappointing finish by Iligan which got its consolation goal from Kevin Deano on the 81st minute.

Mindanao-side Dipolog came from a goal down in a Group A game to defeat Baguio, 2-1, in a no-barring match. Dipolog's Edwin Enviduado leveled on 29 minutes and Reginald Jukes sealed the result six minutes after the break to give Dipolog its only win in the tournament. Baguio's Mark Signabon gave the highlanders their early 20th . m.nure.ead

The PFF/adidas U-19 Championship is the official 'Under-19' tournament of the Philippine Football Federation. It is managed and organized in Cebu by the Cebu Football Association of Liza and Sean Gepaya ended an which Jonathan Maximo is presi-

U-14 champions coming to Manila

from Bukidnon, San Carlos City-Negros Occidental, Laguna, Baguio and a dozen more provinces are expected to troop into Metro Manila to compete in the single-day, seven-a-side PFF/Red to put together a National Under-14 Ribbon Football Festival on Dec. 19 at the Ateneo de Manila University

The Philippine Football Federation, the LEAD Insurure for Sport and the Red Ribbon Bakeshop are working together to get as many kid-footballers,

in this big year-ending festival that hopes to showcase the finest players in that age category.

The PFF and LEAD have partnered team for Asean and Asian competitions next year and have agreed that the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta and the forthcoming PFF/Red Ribbon Football Festival are ideal tourna-

ments to scout for young potentials. Events manager Ed Formoso said

associations that staged 'football fiestas' have already confirmed participation and are excited at the prospect of playing against Manila boys—who could have as many as 20 clubs and school teams in this compe-

Formoso added that the festival will also serve as the 'championship day' of the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta were Colegio San Agustin, Ateneo, Marist School, Cheng Hua, Xavier and

Domeka Garamendi, deputy general secretary of the Federation, also announced that interested youth clubs and ceams may call Risha Ortega at the PFF office at 6871594 or text inquiries to Everything Putbol Promoclons at 0916-3660369.

This weekend's games of the Red Ribbon Football Flesta have been postponed due to the effects of typhoon Yoyong

Fita names Acop int'l judge, accredits 8 other officials

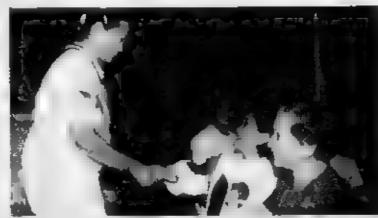
celyn Guerrero Acop has been named international judge by the Fita while eight others have emeritus, the highest award for international been accredited international judges by the Asian judges. Archery Federation (AAF).

The most bemedaled Pilipino athlete in the 2 1977 SEAG, Acop officiated in the Athens Olympics, making her only the second Pilipino to act as an Olympic judge. The first was Du-maguete City's Dionisio Flores, now NAAP vice president, who officiated in the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Both Flores and the only other Filipino interna-

FORMER Southeast Asian Games champion Jo- tional judge, the late NAAP president Ramon A. Lim, were each presented a Fita Diploma as judge

> Incombent archery head Dr. Lenora Re S. Brawner of Baguno City leads seven other Filipinos who passed the recent AAF examination. for regional judges conducted by Norway's Wilman Mortern. The others who made it as regional judges are Municiliupa's Karia R. Cabrera, Fe. M. Empaynado, Dennis B. Torre, Mildred de Leon, Artemio Dupitas, Roberto Sta. Rosa and



NATIONAL CHAMP: National women's indoor champion Abigail Tindugan is congratulated by Terry Lim, daughter of the late former NAAP president Ramon Lim, after receiving her medal from Lim's widow, Natividad (right), during the awarding ceremony of the recent 1st Ramon A. Lim Memorial Cup tournament.

RTU juniors score 1st NCRAA victory

RIZAL Technological University got two strong rivals in defending champiback on its feet yesterday in the junior division of the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) basketball tournament at the Emilio

Aguinaldo College gym. Rookies Kevin Bascan and Raymund Miranda made it happen as RTU went on to put away Polytechnic University of the Philippines, 51-43.

Their husde plays in the last four minutes enabled the Rizaleños to hold PUP scoreless for some three minutes.

This allowed RTU to post its first win after suffering two setbacks against

on Colegio de San Lorenzo and St. Francis.

"Bumawi lang kami," said RTU coach Nicanor Macvalog as RTU joined PUP in moving behind unbeaten rivals St. Francis and Olivarez HS.

The St. Francis Dovelets came off with a 128-20 beating of EAC HS while Olivarez HS prevailed over Areliano,

ATU tries to extend its winning run when it meets San Beda-Alabang at

2.30 p.m. today.

Timothy Taclas scored on a drive to put the RTU ahead, 42-41.

Bascao led RTU with 15 points while Miranda and Taclas had 14 points apiece. His four freethrows with 1:25 left saw RIU pulling away

Another charity by David Mariano with 40 ticks to go kept RTU ahead in

the ensuing play.

\$T. FRANCIS 128- Sandoval 20, Azellano 18, Cruz 14, Gubantes 13, Calimilim 12, Galabin 11, Jumao-as 11, Ali Ali 8, Amado 6, Dicon 6, Ca-Trailing by a point with 3:13 left, ballero 6, Macaboso 4.

EAC 28- Sarvida 12, Mallo 3, Abdul 2, Alento 2, Tenorio 1.

Halfttrag: 64-10

Heimbrae: 21-18.

OLIVAREZ COLLEGE 81- Vizcaria 31, Encela 18, Aranzaso 8, Canico 8, Rosai 5, Bulanng 5, Albanto 4. Sanchez 2, Ferreras 2.

ARELLAND 79 - Vilalobos 24, Arroyo 12, Reyes 7, Yee 6, Urnandap 6, De & Cruz 5, Galinba 5, Othra 4, Caast 4, Kee 2, Cantes 2, Ordonez 2.

Halfillme: 48-44. ATU 51--Bascao 15, Miranda 14, Taclas 14,

Mariano 5, Chicote 3, Ancero 0. PDP 43-Parreno 16, Navarro 8, Ricatort 8, Pontero 5, Abetia 5, Binondo 2 Garcia 0.

John Hay, **BGC** host Rotary tilt

BAGUIO'S two famous golf courses—Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club are sponsoring the 19th RGFFP (Rotary Golfing Rellowship Foundation of the Philippines) tournament on Jan. 19-22 next year,

Around 500 Rotarian gotfers and guests are expected to compete in the much-awaited "annual." Coincidentally, the Rotary Movement turns 100 years while BGC Club celebrates its 100th year,

All par-3's of both golf courses will feature valuable hole-in-one prozes. Four par 3's per day will stake P1 million cash prize, four others P700.000 and another four holes offer an OSIM Massage chair. The remaining five par-3 holes will feature 3/pins green which offer an expensive watch, a Paul Harris Fellow membership and a flat screen

In the last annual, Baguio's Romy Tio scored an ace to win a Honda Civic VII and RC Las Piñas Prancisco Molina made another are to bag an Omega gold watch.

RC Bagulo South copped the overall this with 291 Stableford points, 103 over RC Makati Ayala. which member Theodore Pascual emerged low

gross winner. For details, contact RGFFP secretariat through e-mail rgffp@yahoo.com or fax 721-5940 and look for Pauline Sevilla (09209199000) or Leah

Grubat (09209087635),

Arriba King tries to seal sprint crown

By Edwin Villanueva, Contributor

MIRROR, mirror on the racing wall, who's the fastest local galloper of 'em

The answer, by all means, points toward a sixyear-old bay horse named Arriba King.

Biessed with a terrific burst of speed from the gates, Amba King tries to seal that title for the 2004 season when he runs in the Grand Sprint Championship this afternoon at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

The odds are simply stacked in favor of Arriba King who is facing two challengers—one he had just manhandled in his last outing and the other a veritable unknown-in such seldomheld competition over 900 meters.

"Was lang magbago ang magandang kundisyon tingin ko walang talo (As long as he maintains his good condroon, I think he's unbeatable)," said star jockey Jonathan Hernandez, Amibe King's

Facing Arriba King for the P300,000 first prize are Sacred Hali and Gallant Warrior to be booted by Dominador Borbe Jr. and Par Dilema, respec-

Sacred Hall, also a known speedball, clashed with Arriba King in the recent Marho Breeders' Cup Sprint but proved no match against the latter,

while Gallant Warner is joining the fray with nary a record to show that he has sprinting prowess.

Still, Sacred Hall and Gallant Warrior won't go home empty-handed in the event of an Arriba King win because the sponsoring Philracom under chair Jimmy Dilag and the Manila Jockey Club headed by lawyer Alfonso Reyno have put up a P112,500 prize for the runaerup and P62,500 for the third and last placer

Last Nov. 27, Arriba King landed in local racing's history books when he topped the Marho Breeders' Cup Sprint for the third consecutive year, also under Hernandez.

Acribe King, sired by Alymar out of Carta Nueve, is enjoying his reign as the undisputed sprinter in the land today unlike in the previous years when Royal Marina faced stiff competition from Top Signature, and Hazmoore had a bitter rival in Amphitheatre.

Also featured today is the Roberto Reverente Cup, where former Presidential Gold Cup champion Free Wind is taking on classy import Being There, as well as Suonos and Lord of All over

Free Wind, to be guided by Dennis Camañero, is trying to bring back the glory days as he shoots for a win that would prime him up for another shot at the PGC crown on Dec. 12, but Being There, with Antonio Alcasid Jr. at the reins, will prove to be a tough customer today.

Race 1-1. Southern Prince 2. Super Wind 3. Nico's In Charge 4. **Gun Powder**

Race 2-1. Archer 2. Great Tower 3. Silver Music 4. Gifted Angel 5. Loaded

Race 3-1 Flying Jordan 2. Alexi's Magic Race 4-1 Euro Bucks 2, Pandora 3, Patildim 4, Jedì 5. Daidalera

Race 5--1 Being There 2. Free Wind Race 6-1, Refreshing/Senfority 2, Andee's Gold 3. Bronte 4. Mr. Lucas 5. Prickly Heat 6. Sir Bren-

Race 7—1 Arriba King 2, Sacred Hall Race 8-1, Shure Bull 2, Magic Dancer 3, Cuadro



AT SILP BY MR. 999

de Alas 4. Magic Dancer 5. King Yoli 6. Lard of the Rtng/Western Dancer

Race 9-1. Marque 2. Roah 3. District

Race 10-1. War Alert 2. Pyramid Relaunch 3. Air Force One 4. Hand in Hand 5. Flying Machine Race 11-1. Mano Po 2. Stradivarius 3. Sky Bound

Race 12-1 Say It's True 2. Heartland 3. Dutce My Love 4. Lady Be Gold

Race 13-1 Court General 2. Real Black 3. King Size 4. Mercurlan 5. Salamat 6. Speed Advan-

Ramirez 'Driver of the Year'

SUBIC-Louie Ramirez of Petron-brother Kookie Ramirez of SRA put his name in the record Petron-SRA in the Blaze books when he emerged as the "Driver of the Year" in the 2004 SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic Inter-

national Raceway. Finding little opposition, Ramirez finished second in the season-ending 14th round to cap his campaign and complete his rise as the seventh driver to win the title in the country's premier car racing competition organized by Sports Values Inc. and sponsored

Overall, Ramirez finished with a 14round aggregate of 92 points, 25 points ahead of his closest rival and older

tle," said Ramirez, "is a dream come true,

"I'm so happy to win and bring the title back to family," Ramirez, who joined the Arthur late Tuason (1994), Coseteng (1995, 2002, 1996, 2003),

(2000) and Ferdinand Ong (2001) as circuit racing champions.

super saloon event. To win the overall ti-

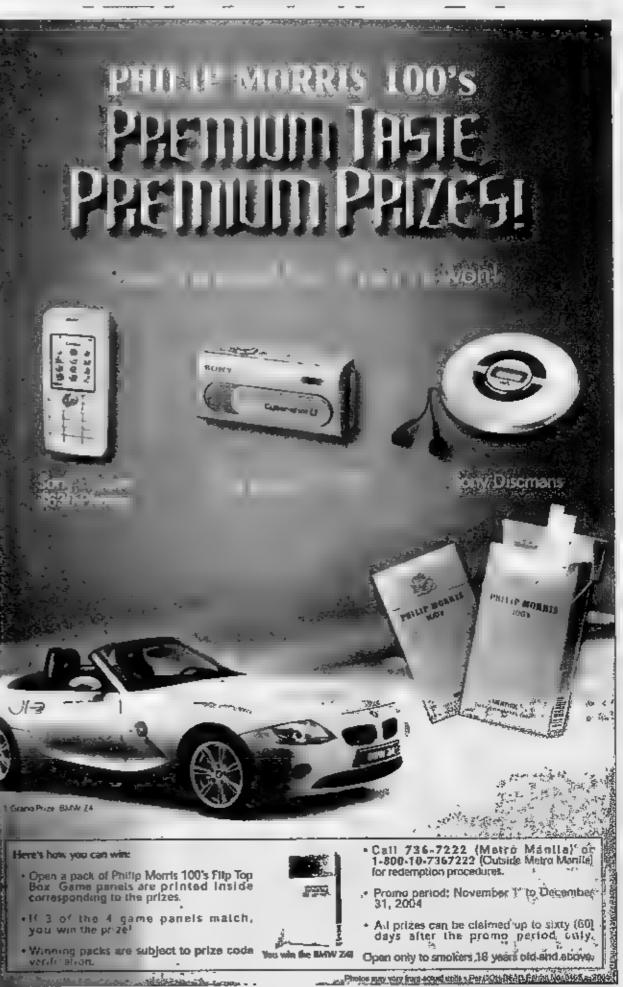
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Ramirez was also the fourth member of the Ramirez dan to win the crown after father Pocholo and brothers George

and Miguel. Only older brother Kookie has yet to win the title, although he has finished runner-up more

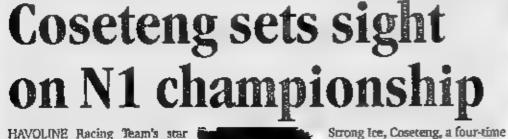
than three times. Ramirez completed a

double victory when he George Ramirez (1997, 1998), Miguei also bagged the super saloon A plum Ramirez (1999), Pocholo Ramirez over female driver Gabby de la Merced of Big Shot Billiards-Nike-



Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health



HAVOLINE Racing Team's star driver Jody Coseteng, fresh from a Top 10 finish in the prestigious Guia Race of the Macau Grand Prix recently, will try to formalize his claim to the overall N1 championship in the 13th and 14th rounds of the Philippine National Touring Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas today.

Coseteng is a first timer in the Macau Grand Prix but was able to hold his ground against the world's best drivers, leading the BRC's premier N1 division with 115 points, 10 points ahead of the second running Dominic Bon and 11 up on the third-ranked Rey Reyes.

"It would be nice to end the season with a victory or two," saki Coseteng, of the Havoline team, which is powered by Vortex Gold and supported by Rota Wheeis, Brembo Brakes, Hyper Parts, Gatorz Eyewear, Gaspeed Kolor Craft, Auto Trend, DZ Racing and Performance and Atoy Body Kits.

Backed by Caltex Havoline and San Miguel Macau GP.



Driver of the Year, scored two runner-up finishes in Rounds 11 and 12 to hike his total points by 24 and pull away from the pursu-

Coseteng, actually, would not have broken away from the field if not for the valuable help of Havoline Team Captain Oscar Aguillar, who kept the erstwhile secondrunning Reyes to fourth place

while running third majority of the way. The tactical move prevented Reyes from closing in on the Havoline top driver.

"This is the essence of being part of a team," said Havoine product manager. Jody will be crowned champion of the centerpiece event, but it's a team victory. Everybody contributed immensely to Jody's coming title romp."

Coseteng, of course, is very much equipped to run away with circuit-racing's most prestigious plum after a successful showing in the



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THE MIAMI Heat's superstar center, Shaquitle O'Neal (32), blocks a shot by Chicago Bulls' Tyson Chandler (left) during the third quarter of their game in Chicago. The Heat won the game, 105-81.

EW YORK—Tony Parker scored 20 points and Brent Barry made two freethrows in the final seconds to give the San Antonio Spurs an 80-77 win over the Detroit Pistons Friday.

Detroit rallied to get within one point of the host Spurs after trailing by 21 but the Pistons came up short in a battle of the last two NBA champions.

Tim Duncan notched 18 points and 18 rebounds while teammate Manu Ginobili also had 18 points for the Spurs (14-3), who have the best record in the NBA.

Ben Wallace returned to the Detroit lineup after serving a six-game suspension for his part in the mass brawl against the Indiana Pacers last month. He was less than effective though, posting five points and pulling down nine rebounds in 33 minutes

Chauncey Billups grabbed all 18 of his points in the fourth quarter for the defending champion Pistons, who slipped under the 500 mark at 7-8. Antonio McDyess added 13 points in a losing cause.

In New York, Cuttino Mob.ey poured in 34 points in his second game back from injury as the Orlando Magic cooled off the Knicks, 104-98

Steve Francis had 26 points, seven rebounds, six assists and four steals for the Magic, who also received 21 points from Grant Hill. Stephon Marbury recorded

28 points for the Knicks, whose six-game home winning streak was snapped. in Atlanta, Larry Hughes

scored 19 points to lead the Washington Wizards past the Hawks, 114-90.

Juan Dixon added 17 points for the Wizards (9-5), who



PAU Gasol comes up huge for the Memphis Grizzlies.

went four games over .500 for the first time in three years.

Antoine Walker registered 26 points for the Hawks while Al Harrington added 16 At.anta

minutes, as the Celtics edged the Toronto Raptors, 91-89

less but he made a big defensive play in the last minute to help preserve Boston's win. Jalen Rose led Toronto with 19 points.

In Memphis, Pau Gasol amassed 34 points and 15 re-

(2-13) has lost eight straight. In Boston, Mark Blount picked up 22 points, including the go-ahead basket in the final

Gary Payton was held score-

bounds as the Grizzlies over-

Hong Kong Open: 3 share No. 1 spot

HONG KONG-Defending cham- South African Kingston, who pion Padraig Harrington was tied for the lead with Miguel Angel Jimenez and James Kingston on

Lurking one shot behind the leaders was a group of four, including former world No. 1 and shetime major winner Nick Paldo of England, who shot a thirdround 65 to total 201

Inshman Harrington, who began the day four shots behind overnight leader Jimenez, made five birdies and two bogeys as he carded three-under-par 67 to take a share of the lead going into Sunday's final round.

"I had hoped to build a buffer was not to be," said Harrington. "There is still a lot of hard work ahead, but I'm still happy to be right in front."

Spaniard Jimenez could not find his touch with the putter and limped home with a one-over 71 to add to the 65 and 64 he shot in his first two rounds.

there today," said Jimenez who is seeking his fifth title in 2004. "The pressure is on me now and there are a lot of dangerous players out there."

The biggest jump came from

carded the lowest score of the day with an eight-under-par 62.

"To shoot 62 on what was 10-under-par at the end of the probably the toughest day so far third round of the Hong Kong is quite pleasing, said Kingston, Open on Saturday. who had begun the day nine shots behind leader Jimenez.

"I felt I was swinging well and felt I needed to just go out there and be patient. It feels great to be in front."

Englishman David Howell, Thomas Bjorn of Denmark and Thanand's Thammanoon Srirot were ned for fourth with Fa.do.

Faldo, looking to win his first tournament since 1997, was in inspired form as he shot seven birdles and two bogeys, coming home in style by draining two 25 going into the last round but that footers for birdies on the 17th and 18th holes.

"I just kept plugging away and hit some very good shots," said Faldo. "I was putting well and it was very nice to finish in that fashion

"If I continue to play like this, there is no reason why I cannot win this tournament. I have a "I didn't feel like myself out great opportunity and I know what I have got to do to win."

Bjorn added a 65 to his earlier rounds of 69 and 67 to force himself into contention while That Thammanoon keps Asian hopes alive with a four-under-par 66.

O'Hara grabs AF3 pole position; Sy 4th

ROSARIO, Batangas—John O'Hara found himself in a familiar sinuation in the qualifying time trials of the Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 (AF3) Super Prox yesterday.

But the Irish driver, who placed only runner-up in two Philippine legs earlier this year despite emerging on top of the grid, is betting he saved his best effort for last.

O'Hara's time of one minute and 23.95 seconds in the 12th lap put the Shell Kineric driver at pole position ahead of Australian Christian Jones (one minute and 13.6 secends) and Indonesian Ananda Mikola (one minute and 97 sec-

Tyson Sy, the AF3 prodigy, was the only Filipino in the top five. His time of one minute and 25.01 seconds put him at fourth in the Class A race today at the Batangas Racing Circuit (BRC)

But Sy's time was good for No. 1 in the promotions class in this season-ending AF3 leg sponsored by Yokohama, Denso, PLDT MyDSL, Top Gear, Manila Bulletin and NU

Round Nine is scheduled to begin at 10:40 a.m. and the final gound is set at 2:40.

Sy actually still had a chance to get past Mikola, a first-time driver at the BRC, but the teenage racing sensation eventually trailed the Indonesian by four-tenths of a sec-

"I stuck to him as hard as I could, but he just pulled away," Sy said.



JOHN O'Hara and Tyson Sy were impressive in the qualifying run.

"It's a longshot but I believe anything can still happen. I'll try to be consistent; avoid any kind of accidents early to have a chance."

Sy, driving for Castrol Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia, bas accumulated 36 points over the last four

He is ned with fellow Filipino Pepon Marave of Shell Kinetic F3. Sy trails countryman Enzo Pastor

of Fujitsu Ten Toyotz Team TOM's in the race for top driver in the promotions class, or chassis built 1998 or prior. Pastor owns 58 points.

O'Hara currently leads all drivers tions division.

for the AF3 Driver of the Year. But six rounds against Jones, whos 108 points trail O'Hara's 111, the Irishman finished faster than Jone only once. Not including the fifth round it

Beijing, Jones emerged No. 1 for times. The Australian swept th first four rounds in the openin stop in Batangas and the follown. leg in Subic.

Asked how that will affect hi psyche tomorrow, O'Hara saul h feit more confident now.

"I'm better off now than in th first time I came here," O'Hara sak "It's not that I'm going to lose slee tonight. I've made mistakes the fir tune and I'll do my best not to mak them again."

Mikola, his country's top drive who spent most of the year tourn Europe, is racing in the country fo the first time.

But the Indonesian didn't 100 like is yesterday, negotiating th BRC with relative ease.

"I guess in races like this, vol don't want to look stupid," Missol smiled. "When you come to jos any race, your goal is to win regard less if you're there the first time (

Mikola's brother, Moren Soeprapto, finished 10th overa but third in the promotions class

British teenager Oliver Turve also a debuting Batangas drive placed fifth in the qualifiers ansecond behind Sy in the prome



JAMES Kingston of South Africa poses under the leaderboard after day three of the Omoge Hong Kong Open at the Hong Kong Golf Club, Fanling. Kingston shares the lead with two others.

Local tour rookie gains Australian PGA lea

COOLUM tour rookie James Nitties sank a onemeter birdle putt at the last hole to lead the Australian PGA Championship at Coolum on Saturday with one round to play.

After an absorbing tussle with Texan Bob Estes, Nitties walked off the final green with a one-shot lead at 14-under 202 heading into the de-

ciding 18 holes on Sunday. Nittles hit the perfect eight-iron onto the 18th green to put the pres-

Australia Australian sure on Estes, who over-hit his approach and three-putted.

"I'm happy with the last hole, it changed the whole outlook for tomorrow," said Nitties, 22, who will again partner Estes in the final round.

Estes applied the heat to Nittles all through Saturday's round, his tee shots regularly splitting the fair-

But the former top amateur, playing only his fourth professional tour-

nament after one month on tour,

stood up to the pressure and Estes missed a short putt on the 18th to save par for a share of the lead.

"I'm so frustrated I'm about to exprode right now, but I'll get over it," Rates said

70-70) one shot back.

"I played so good . . . and only shot two under I should have at least shot five or six under, I hit it

that good." Nittles (67-65-70) finished their battle on 14 under with Estes (63-

Pormer US Open winner Co Pavin (67-70-67), defending chi pion Peter Senior (69-67 ps) Peter O'Mailey (68-67-69) wm well placed to win at 12-under 20

Australian Open winner I Lonard (69-65-71), shooting for third win in a row, was in contenon 11-under 205 after a big par ing putt on the last hole.

Greg Norman fired a luckless to be eight-under 208, six shots

PORTS

lace

nd skid

the Philadelphia 76ers, , to earn Mike Fratello y in his debut as team

loss snapped a five-game streak for the Grizzlies, replaced Hubie Brown Fratello earlier in the

en Iverson had 25 points even steals for the Sixers as 8-for-27 from the field riladelphia lost its third ht game overall and sixth cession on the road.

Chicago, Christian Laetlaimed 23 points as the Heat beat the Bulls, 105-

lie Jones added 21 points he Heat while Dwyane had 15 points, 10 reis and eight assists. Kirk ch totaled 17 points for

Phoenix, Kevin Garnett buted 23 points, 19 res and eight assists to he.p. Innesota Timberwolves ff the Suns, 97-93

rell Sprewell scored 22 s and Sam Cassell 19 as Wolves won their fourth ht to end Phoenix's ninewinning streak

are Stoudemire had 28 s for the Suns (13-3) Shawn Marion notched nts and 18 rebounds.

acramento, Chris Webber ed 29 points as the Kings heir 10th game out of 11 uting the Indiana Pacers,

d Miller added 17 points 13 rebounds against his r teammates

Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant led a triple-double with 10 12 rebounds and 10 assists Lakers defeated the Golden Warriors, 97-88.

on Burler added 27 for the Lakers while Richardson scored 22 Warriors.



Jones to sue steroid use accuser'

queen Marion Jones says she'il sue accused steroid peddler Victor Conte over his allegations that she received banned drugs before winning five medals at the Sydney Olympics.

Victor Conte's allegations about me are not true, and the truth will come out in the appropriate forum," Jones said Friday in a statement issued through her attorney

Thave instructed my lawyers to vigorously explore a defamation lawsuft against Victor Conte."

Conte, one of four men facing criminal charges in the investigation of the Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative (Balco), which he founded, says in a television interview that he supplied Jones with several banned drugs and instructed her how to use them.

The full interview is to air on Priday right on the "20-20" program, over baseball.

SAN FRANCISCO-US sprint but excerpts were broadcast on Thursday

Jones, who has steadfastly denied any wrongdoing, won three gold medals and two bronze medals at Sydney but struggled thus year simply to qualify for the Athens Games.

She has never failed a drug test. However, the US Anti-Doping Agency (Usada) fingered Balco as the source of the previously undetectable designer steriod tetrahydrogestrinone (THG), and information gathered by federal agents in the Balco case has already been used to impose sanctions on athletes for various drug infractions, even though they hadn't tested pos-

Jones' lawyers have argued that Conte cannot be believed because of his role in a scandal which has rocked athletics and cast a shadow



MARION Jones wants to clean up her image.

tained her position through-

"Mr. Conte's starements have out-she has never, ever, used perbeen wildly contradictory while formance-enhancing drugs," Jones Marion Jones has steadfastly main- attorney Rich Nichols said in a

'Basketbrawl' Bonds testimony leak angers lawyer

arguments NEW YORK-The National Basketball Association and the players' unloa were at loggerheads on Friday over who has jurisdiction to hear the appeal of the record suspensions

causes more

Pacers-Pistons game last month. Ron Artest was banned for the rest of the season and Pacers teammates Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal also received lengthy suspensions after fighting with

meted our in the wake of the ugly brawl at a

The league's grievance arbitrator, Roger Kaplan, said he would hold a hearing next week to consider the issue of whether he has

jurisdiction in the case. But the NBA went to federal court to block

Kaplan from hearing the appeals. We do not feel that (the arbitrator) is entitled to arbitrate this case," said Russ Granik, NBA deputy commissioner,

"We don't think he should even have said that he'd consider hearing this case," he

The NBA maintains that only commissioner David Stern has the power to determine suspensions in "oa-court" matters.

OAKLAND, California-A lawyer for baseball superstar Barry Bonds on Friday blamed the government for leaking sealed testimony and said his client had never knowingly taken illegal drugs.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported Thursday that Bonds told a grand jury he used two products, a clear" and a "cream," supplied by his personal trainer Greg Anderson, who is one of four men facing steroid distribution charges after an investigation of the Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative (Balco)

Balen has been fingered by US anti-doping officials as the source of the designer steroid THG.

But attorney Michael Rains insisted Friday that Bonds had no knowledge that the products he got from Anderson might include steroids.

Rains said Bonds' rules regarding supplements were simple: "Nothing illegal, I won't do any-

And Rains said Bonds believed Anderson followed that dictum.

"This is Barry's best friend in the world," Rams said. "Barry trusted him and trusts him today. He trusts that he never got anything illegal from Greg Anderson.

"His testimony would be, hus



BARRY Bonds' lawyer wants government to probe the leak.

standing here, he did not take anything illegal. His best friend did not give him anything illegal."

And Rains blasted federal offieals for failing to let Bonds see documents gathered by investigators in the Balco case before he testified before a grand jury.

Rams and the San Francisco Giants slugger had been in contact arhletes to testify before the grand

statement would be, if he was with the US Attorney's Office before tesniying last year and had been told be could review documents that contained his name or a reference to hum.

That opportunity failed to materialize, and Rains said it was because prosecutors hoped to "trap" Bonds into a damning admission.

"The one and only witness of

jury who was not allowed to look at documents pertaining to him or her, was Barry Bonds," said Rains, who also biamed federal officials for leaks of information in the case to the media.

"The reason for that is the US government didn't want to give Barry Bonds a fair shake.

The US government thought if they could suddenly throw some documents in front of Barry Bonds for the first time in front of the grand jury, then they could get an indicament for something."

The Balco case erupted this year into a doping scandal whose shadow reached as far as the Athens

Anderson, athletics coach Remt Korchemny and Baico executives Victor Conte and James Valente have pleaded innocent in the criminal case, which has yer to go to trial.

The implication of Bonds in the scanda, could taint the star's historic Major League Baseball home run feats, including the single-season record 73 home runs he hit in 4

"He said he was sorry this has happened," Rains said of Bonds. "He understands the potential tarnish on the game, on his friends, and on his family."

US pins last hopes on Bryan twins

Mike Bryan will have a rare opportunity to grab the spotlight on Saturday when they attempt to keep alive the United States' challenge in the Davis Cup final against Spain.

With the US trailing, 2-0, the Bryan brothers will enter Seville's Olympic Stadium knowing they have to defeat Rafael Nadal and Tommy Robredo in the doubles rubber to take the contest into a third day.

"For us this is probably the biggest competition," Mike Bryan nis \$81d.

know this is probably the biggest moment of our lives. And we're going to give it hell."

Champions a record 31 times 1995, the Americans have been left in a precarious position following the defeats of Mardy Fish and Andy Roddick on the slow red clay on Friday.

The Bryans have had an excellent career that includes winning

SEVILLE, Spain-Twins Bob and the 2003 French Open and the Masters Cup over the past two seasons.

Despite their wholesome all-American good looks, the brothers often have to contest their matches in front of half-empty stands.

Hence their match on Saturday in front of 27,000 fans will test their skills to survive a hostile crowd in an almost uniquely highprofile match.

The Spanish squad is well aware that the brothers' hunger for victory is backed by their ten-

"I know that the point in the Wasting out there, I think we doubles will be the most difficult one (of the final)," said Juan Avendano, part of Spain's threeman coaching team.

The brothers have won all three but seeking their first title since of their Davis Cup matches this year without dropping a set, while Robredo and Nadal have claimed only one victory.

Right-handed Mike and lefthanded Bob, born two minutes apart, have the advantage of years of experience as a team. Reuters

SEVILLE, Spain—Teenage rookie Rafael Nadal blanted the world's fastest serve on Friday to sum Andy Roddick and give Spain a 2-0 lead over the United States in the Davis Cup final.

The 16-year-old, playing his first year of Davis Cup, whipped a record terms crowd of 27,200 to a frenzy as he rocked the world No. 2, 6-7, 6-

"This is so important for me because it has been a long time since I played at this level," he said, his voice breaking with emotion.

Ranked 51st in the world, Nadal had been preferred to former world No. 1 Juan Carlos Perrero for this march in a controversial move by cuach Jordi Arrese on Thursday.

His whole-hearted performance vindicated

Arrese's decisión. "Everything went so well, just great," the player smiled as he left the clay court.

Nadal absorbed everything a serve-volleying Roddick threw at him, pummeling returns and blasting groundstrokes all round Seville's Olympic Stadium court to clinch a fantastic victory in three hours 38 minutes.

The burly left-hander fell to the ground in relief after forcing Roddsck into an error on his secand match some.

Nadal's fellow Mailorcan and practice partner Carlos Moya had earlier fired Spain into a 1-0 lead which means the Bryan twins, Mike and

Bob, must now beat Nadal and Tommy Robredo on Saturday to prevent Spain winning their sec-

Nadal helps Spain grab 2-0 Davis lead

ond Davis Cup. Former world No. 1 Moya bamboozled Mardy Fish, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3, for the first point.

"I turned up for the most important date of my life in front of so many people so at the start I was a little nervous," Moya smiled, "But I played safely, within myself, not

taking too many risks. I knew he is a player who, if things are going well for him, can be very Olympic silver medalist Fish had won two of

those victories came on hard courts. On Seville's slow, red, power-blunting clay and against a backdrop of red and yellow flags and banners, Moya tied his opponent up in

Running him from side to side, the Spaniard put on a claycourt masterclass.

Punching winners into the corners off both sides, Moya clinched the opening set on his first set point after 40 minutes of play.

The 1998 Prench Open champion blasted through Fish's defenses in the second set and the third proved little more than a formality.

"I tried everything," Fish said. "I tried serving and volleying. You know, I tried coming in on a lot of balls. I tried to stay back a lot . . . but he had the answers."





ANDY Roddick's defeat left US in a bind.

IOT

aV-

off

Roddick: I just ran into a guy today that was too good'

SEVILLE, Spain-A baying, frenzied Spanish tennis crowd and Rafael Nadal combined to bring world No. 2 Andy Roddick to his knees on Friday at the Davis Cup final.

It is not an experience he is likely to for-

"It was crazy. You know, it was unlike anything fve experienced before," the shell-shocked American said after his defeat at the hands of the 18-year-old.

"Obviously, emotionally I'm pretty down-I wanted to get one for the team."

Roddick's serve—the world's fastest and his ferocious forehand were both blunted by the Mallorcan teenager as Spain took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five

rubber match. "I just ram into a guy today that was too

good," the American said. "I couldn't have tried any harder You know, I couldn't have . . . I gave it everything I had. It just wasn't enough on the day."

Roddick threw everything at his young opponent but Nadal absorbed it all.

"I had to do something to try to win points," said Roddick. "I fek like I stuck to the game plan and I volleyed pretty well today. I just ran into someone who played eoo well."

"Every once in a while people come

along and they're big march players. "This is the third time this year he's stepped up in singles and played well. I think you either have it or you don't, regardless of age."

Roddick predicts a bright future for the left-handed Nadal.

"I think he could become possibly one of the best day courters in the world," he

Twins Bob and Mike Bryan must now beat Nadal and Tommy Robredo to keep alive American hopes of winning a first Davis Cup since 1995.

Despite their predicament, US captain Panick McEnroe heaped praise on Rod dick for his efforts.

"I'm extremely proud of the way Andy played anday, the way he competed which he always does," he said "But more importantly, the tactics that

he used and the improvement that he showed in playing that style.

"So to me that bodes very, very well for him, and therefore for us, not just for us this weekend, but for the future. Reuters



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Fans get a close-up of Pacquiao foe

By Salven L. Lagumbay

FIGHT fans get a full view of Fahsan 3K Battery, Manny Pacquiao's adversary in Taguig on Dec. 11, who will be featured in a Viva Sports pre-fight special on Sunday

Sponsored by Beer na Beer and aired on the top-rating weekly boxing show The Main Event' the Pacquiao-Fahsan pre-fight special of "Yardg sa Taguig" will also

Filipino Joebar Damosmog whom he knocked out in the sixth round.

The veteran Damosmog was among the more than 20 Filipino fighters Fahsan had beaten, most of them by knockout.

The special will also include from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. over exclusive footages of Pahsan's training as well as Pacquiao's preparation at the Almendras Gym in Davao City including his early morning roadwork, gyin workouts with trainer Freddie Roach, sparring sessions and in-

It also includes some lighthearted moments where Pacquiao interviews sparring partner and Philippine lightweight champion Fernando Montilla, who is himself preparing for a showdown with Elorde fighter Rey Almonicar of Dec. 11.

Meanwhile, reigning RP superfeatherweight king Bobby Pacquiao was forced to pull out of his Dec. 11 defense against Cebubased Dexter "Dinamita" Delada following a hand injury suffered while training in Davao City.

brother injured his left hand while hitting the heavy bag two weeks ago, but the decision to withdraw from the fight came only this week. after his camp officially sent a medical certificate to the Games and Arnusements Board.

The younger Pacquiao would have made his sixth titular defense against the lanky, powerpunching Delada

Organizers were quick to find a replacement for the injured Pacquiao, as Mindanao brawler Arnel Porras, a sparmate for the Elorde Gym in Parañaque.

king, was picked to pinch-hit for the RP champ.

Detada versus Porras will be fought in 10 rounds, with the winner getting an outright chance to challenge Pacquiao.

As this developed, Montilla's defense against top-rated Rey Almonicar will be the chief support to the Pacquiao-3K Battery mainer.

Montilla is currently training with Pacquiao in Davao Almendras Gym, while Almonicar is working out with Delada at the



PACQUIAO



FALLEN VICTOR: Spain's Rafael Nadal falls to the ground as he celebrates defeating Andy Roddick of the US during the Davis Cup final at Seville's Olympic Stadium Dec. 3. See story on page 29.

men to Roach clinic diruc. Adequet, together with WBC founding By Salven L. Lagumbay

Cebu stables sending

CEBU CITY-Practically all of Cebu's major boxing gyms will be aptly represented when renowned boxing trainer Freddie Roach holds his once-us-a-lifetime boxing clinic on Dec. 8 and 9 at the ABAP Gym in Manila.

The corrective clinic is organized by lawyersportsman Rudy Salud and sponsored by the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Roach, trainer of Manny Pacquiao, Mike Tyson, and James Toney among others, has agreed to help Philippine boxing improve its stock by sharing his expertise and technical know-how with local trainers, who until today continue to wallow in techniques dating back to the bare-knuckle days.

Cebu boxing patron Tony Aldeguer of the ALA Boxing Gym here, together with his chief trainer Edito "Ala" Villamor, are among the earliest to have signified their intention to join the two-day

secretary-general Rudy Salud, manages the career of superfly phenom 2 "The Dream" Gorres.

Promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud, the acknowledged Jungmaker from Cebu, is also reportedly sending three of his trainers to join the event, which happens just days prior to Pacquiao's 12round tiff with That Fahsan 3K Battery.

Stonewall Boxing Club, which promotes OPBF kingpin Rodel Mayol, is also sending tramer Carl Peñalosa Jr. together with Mayor to give the latter a glimpse of Roach's teaching

Although Peñalosa is already quite familiar with Roach's style during the Gerry Peñalosa days at the Wild Card Gym, Peñalosa says be wants "to renew ties with Roach because he is a very good man."

Roach clinic will start at 8 a.m., with lectures to be held on Dec. 8 and demonstrations and

Ilocos, Lhuillier arrange URBL titular showdown

CEBU CITY—Harbour City-Pampan- onship series is tentatively set on Friday, ga played the spoiler's role and M. Lhuillier-Cebu City and the Ilocos Sut Snipers went on to arrange yesterday a showdown for the first ever United Regional Basketball League (URBL) championship at the New Cebu City third place.

Collseum. Winless in their first five semifinal outings, Harbour City upset the Quezon Coco Huskers, 91 86, to dash the title hopes of their victims in this tournament sponsored by Lactovitale and Adihotels Castle Peak, Holiday Plaza and Mango Park.

The Jewelers went on to down the Snipers, 74-68, to tie Ilocos for top spor with four wins against two losses and sea, their title duel.

Quezon finished third at 3-3 with Pampanga last a 1-5. Game One of the best-of-five champi-

Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Santo Domingo People's Center.

Harbour Centre-Pampanga and the 14 while Niño Marquez knocked in 13. Ouezon Huskers will collide at 4 p.m. in a sudden-death knockout match for

16 while James Laygo and Leo Bat-og added 11 each. Jerome Barbosa starred for flocos with 20 points and 10 re-

The Huskers built their biggest lead das in cooperation with URBL partner of the game at 63-48 before Billy Bansil exploded together with Alex Bognot and Mark Nannginga to move Harbour Centre within 62-63 at the end of the third quarter.

> With momentum on its side, Harbour Centre turned to veteran center Long David who drilled in a jumper to give Pampanga the lead for good, 72-71, with 6:41 still remaining.

Bansil finished with a game-high 22 points, followed by David with 16.

Jonar Tierra paced the Huskers with

First game NARSOUR CENTRE 91-Barell 22, David 16. Bognot 12, Llangco 52, Santus 10, A Garda 9, Nanainga 5, Olzon 3, Yambao 2, Magpayo (L.

QUEZON 86-Tierra 14, Marquez 13, L. Rodinguez 12, Booker 11, Echavez 10, A Rodriguez 9. Guerrero 8, Korag 7, Taguines 2, Ferrer 0, Catalan 0. Quarters, 16-21, 37-44, 52-63, 91-86.

Second game

Mi. LHUILLIER 74-Marata 16, Bal-og 11, Laygo 11, Dacia 10, L Garda 7 de Guzman 7, Aying 6,

BLOCOS SUR 68-Barbosa 20, Sanders 13, Yu. 12, Santa Cruz & Cardel 5, D Mendoza 5, Rauschmayer 4, Manigo 2, Hardin 1, Butel 0. Quarters: 19-9, 44-29, 54-47, 74-68.

UAAP tankers leave today for Asean University Games

THE FINEST swimmers of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) led by Athens Olympian Timmy Chua leave for Surabaya, Indonesia, today for the 12th Asean University Games

Besides Chua of UP, the UAAP ream headed by Ateneo athlenes director Jose Capistrano is also composed of Raphael Evan Grabador, Jeffrey James Laguitao and Luica Gaudes Dacanay of UP, Benramm Uy of De La Salle, Regina Patima Amago of UST and Sherlynne Nicole Santiago of Ateneo.

The ASEAN University Games is staged once every two years on a rotating basis among member hanons Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Bruner and the Philippines. The Philippines hosted the event in 2002.

The games' 12th edition starts today with the competition asting up to Dec. 12.

Also with Team UAAP-Philippines are head

coach Bernardo Cavida of UP and physiotherapist Moriel Baligad. Meanwhile, action in the UAAP's Season 67

resumed yesterday with the juniors volleybali competition at the UE Gym 5 in Manila and the lawn tennis hostilities today at the Rizal Racquet Club in Pasig City.

Simple opening ceremonies at 11 a.m. will open the tennis event hosted by defending impion De La Salle. Today's men's pairings pit UST against UE and Ateneo against UP

It will be La Salle, the reigning titlist, against architival Ateneo and UP against UST in women's play.

Orchard posts near sweep

Country Club scored a near sweep of the to Duavit, P&O Ports Asia Operating Headawards disputed as they went home with four of the five first place trophies in the recent Semor Care Fellowship Golf Classic

Orchard clinched the team championship on top of victories in three of the four individual categories that were contested by a big field which participated in the 18-hole tourney played at the challenging Palmer course of the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmanñas, Cavite

Orchard finished ahead of the teams from Eagle Ridge and Manila Southwoods in the event organized by the Sentor Care Program

of the Federation of Golf Club Phils. Inc. Tournament and raffle prizes were provid-

Enriquez 4, Cañoreo 2, Smith 0, Rubi 0, Ocariada 0. HOST entries from the Orchard Golf and ed by Smart Communications, lawyer Gilberquarters, Information Professionals Inc., Unilab, Century Park Hotel, Prettylooks, Milestone Hotel Pearl Manila Hotel, Citibank NA, Johnnie Walker, Makatt Golf and Federation

member clubs. Winning Individual trophies for Orchard were Ted Nert in the Classic Division for 55- to 59-year-olds, William Lim in the El re category (60-64) and Zol de Guzman in the Statesman bracket (65-69).

Capt. Ben Narciso of Alabang prevented a sweep when he ruled the Vintage Division for 70 and above. Bob Milan topped the guest division Neri won over Danilo Olanoza of Eagle Ridge and Peping Nepomuceno of Riviera.

Baguio golfers dominate play at their home turfs

BAGUIO CITY--The host players expioted their familiarity with the Camp John Hay and the Baguio Country Club courses to garner most of the individual titles in the first-ever seniors tournament of the 55th Fil-Am Invitational tournament here Friday.

Fred Puckett of the CJH Team scored 83 points in three rounds to win the crown in the championship flight of the Fil Division. Florene de los Santos placed second while CJH captain Ben Borja placed third.

In the Champtonship Am Division, another Baguio boy, Pederico Estao of Syndicate Semors, emerged top scorer with 90 points while Agoes Sociewah of Aloha Golf Tema of Hawaii was second with 84. Sagat Giron placed third with 79 points.

The Manila Southwoods Seniors topped the Am division with all five

players making it to the Top 11

The individual and team champions were feted Friday rught at the CAP-John Hay Cultural Center after the cancellation of the fourth round because of heavy rains and strong winds brought by Typhoon Yoyong.

In the Fil Class A, Baguno Councilor Federico Mandapat Jr. of CJH scored 92 points, the highest among the 125 semors. Teammate Nelson Estao placed second with 87 while Danilo Pizzaro of Riviera-Mizuno placed thurd.

Outgoing University of Baguio president Herr Baurista of BOC scored 69 points as top player in the Am Division, Herbert Hayes and Antonio Versoza of C.F.I placed second and third, respec-

In Class B, Robert Paterson of CJH won the individual crown in the Fil Division with 76 points, followed by Pastor Cimatu, PDI Northern Lusion Bureau

Zamesa of Riviera-Mizuno and Anthony Fernandez of Cheb Intramuros Seniors.

In the Am Division, Fred Santos of the Philippine Seniors Founders was the first non-Baguio winner after scoring 70

bankers Association of the Philippines Team while third was Vads Navarette of

James Alvier and Louie Barron of the Pines Golf Club of California, a team composed of Baguio bolikboyans, scored 75 and 70 points, respectively, to rule the Fil Class C scoring contest. Third was Romulo Garcia of Intra-

Bebot Rivera of Philippine Seniors Founders scored 71 points to pace the Am Division, Orly Basuil of Green Water Meadows was second with 47. Frank

Southwoods hosts Young Guns

will play host for the second straight year to the Young Guns 2004 jumor golf champsonships, a cournament featuring the age bracket which has produced most of the country's international champions the past

Slated on Dec. 20-22, the Young Guos tourney will see players in the 12 years and below bracket of the jungolf ranks tackling the lightning-fast greens and the bunker-laden fairways and greens of the Legends course of Manila Southwoods.

Southwoods, the home course of LPGA champion Jenny Rosales and recent Vietnam Open champ Angelo Que, who are both prod-

Second was Levi Roque of the Bural MANILA Southwoods Golf and Country Club ucrs of the jungolf movement, has accommodated the tourney amid the busy golf season in support of the organizers' pursuit for a steady turnover of talents.

> "We feel grateful to the support being given us by Southwoods and Pil-Estate management.," said Lingi Tabnena, head of the organizing committee.

> About 120 kids from Korea, Switzerland, Japan, United States and Singapore will make up the field in the 54-hole competition.

> Players may fax registration forms to 809-8074 or mail to Share Exchange office at the 11th floor of FGU Bldg., Madrigal Business Park, Muntinlupa City. Inquiries can also be made at tels. 8505870-71



Canlubang hosts ITT pro-am; crack field assured

es, two of the toughest tests in golf, will host the first Ideal Travel and Tours Invitational Pro-Am that has been assured of a crack professional field with the inclusion of Carito Villaroman and Anto-

Former Philippine Open champtons Cassius Casas and Robert Pactolerin are also entered in the lean but mean field, making it a wide-open chase for the pro-

coalizes in seacraft tours in Subic Bay.

Lascuña, the reigning The Country Clab invitational champ, and Villaroman, a regular in the Asian circuit, are among the favorites in the 36-hole event together with Casas, also the inaugural Super Tour winner, and 1991 RP Masters winner

Caloy Nivil, Rey Alit, Pelix Pernando

CANLUBANG'S North and South cours-title of the event set Dec. 13 and 14 and and Mario Siodina make it a four-cor- A three-hour, island-hopping journey bankrolled by TTF, a company that spe-nered fight for the senior title, which, like aboard a sleek, top-of-the-line Yamaha the men's division, stakes cash prizes and

elegantly crafted trophies to the winner World Amateur veterans Artemio Murakomi, Michael Bibat and Juvic Pagunsan have also been invited and will play against a crack Japanese field, the winner in the division will of the sponsoring ITT.

41-foot yacht to swim, snorkel and fish in the open sea form part of the hixury cruise package for the amateur champion and his guests.

The Yamaha yacht is just one of Ideal Travel's seacraft available for rent together with a Sea Ray and Boston Whater get to enjoy a luxury cruise courtesy speedboats for adventurers and 26-foot fishing vessels with cubin and toilet.

SundaySPORTS



AFTER THE TYPHOONS: A boy showboats using a basketball ring as a jumphoard as floodwaters begin to subside in Barangay Canyugan, Calumpit, Bulacan. Flood waters here reached as high as seven feet the day before, refruen

Probe not only BAP, other NSAs, too-GTK

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHY single out basketball? This was the reaction of Go Teng Kok yesterday as he came to

the defense of the beleaguered Basketball Association of the Philippines in his new role as special adviser of the most popular national sports association in the

The BAP is under fire for the humiliating stint by the Philippine College of Criminology team as the country's representative in the recent Fiba-Stankovic Cup in Taipei, where it finished dead last.

As a result, Rep. Monico Puentevella, also the incoming Philippine Olympic Committee first vice president and the weightlifting chief, announced he would seek a Congressional

inquiry into the debacle. Rather than justify the participation of PCCr, Go asked the new POC leadership to review the membership of several national



PUENTEVELLA

sports associations which haven't been performing well in the international scene the past few

Go, the longtime athletics president who was recently elected head of chess, particularly asked Puentevella to help out into motion a POC guideline on NSAs which usually come home empty-handed after government-funded inter-



national stints.

"I laud the congressman's call for an investigation," said Go. "But it should not stop with

He might as well help convince the new POC officers to review the performances of the NSAs which have not been doing well for years but continue to spend taxpayers' money.

"Why single out basketball?

should also check on squash, sailing and triathlon for

example," added Go. "They get money from the government (Philippine Sports Commission) and enjoy full membership in the POC but they don't have any gold medal to show."

He added that the POC is the best agency to police the NSAs ranks so as to avoid allegations of government intervention among the NSAs which are supposedly private and autonomous.

Basketball is very popular that's why it attracts attention, but what about these NSAs which also give the nation embarrassment for performing badly abroad?" added Go.

The outgoing and the incoming POC executive boards are set to meet on Dec. 8 for a formal turnover. The new set of officers, led by president-elect Peping Cojuangco, will begin their term on Jan. 1.

SPORTSWATCH

RP A batters competing in China

THE PHILIPPINE "A" baseball squad will spend their Christmas in China. Hector Navasero, Philippine Amataur Baseball Association president confirmed the participation of the RP team (11-12 years old) in the BFA "A" Baseball Championship to be held in Guangzhou, China, on Dec. 21-27. The team is composed of players from Illam, Southridge, Los Baños and Philab. They are Amber Louise Jays Piaza, Mark Anthony Elic, Nelson Deo Salazar, PJ Prendoza, Boycel Badrina, Mark Kevin Badrina, Franzie Avila, Nathaneal Andrew Alquiros, Miguel Carlos Macaraeg, Sen Antonio Lacsamana, Adriane Ros Bernardo, Karl Emmanuel Peralta, Hector Plarre Navasero, Gerard Aivin Mitra and Manuel Luis Navasero. The delegation also includes team manager Jose

Sarmiento tops URCC photo contest

ERNIE Sarmiento, chief photographer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, won the Universal Reality Combat Championship V Beyond Fear photo contest. He won P5,000 for his winning photograph, which came out in the Induser on Oct. 25. Coming in second was Manifa Times' Ruy Martimez whose entry made it to the front page of his paper also last Oct. 25. He received P3,000. The winners were announced during the recent San Mio Strong Ice URCC Champions Party at Rack's El Pueblo. The champions honored were Jaanyce Baga of DEFTAC Dumagueta, Luisite Sangalang of Sari An, Mark "The Machine" Sangiae of Wushu, Alan Marcus Co of DEFTAC Yew-Yan and Edgar Costilios of Boxaido.

Yu, Guingona lead infinity golf winners

LOW not champion Danny Yu and low gross champion to Guingona led the team of winners at the recent Bellevue Manita-Smart Infinity Golf Fellowship. More than 50 golfers yied for trophies and prizes in the friendly match organized by The Bellevue Hotel in thanksplying to its friends and supporters, including golfers from Alabang's business community. Spearheaded by The Bellevue GM Cyndy Tan-Jarabata, together with executive assistant manager Patrick Chan and Communications manager Ryan Chan, the event is the second leg of fellowship matches culminating in The Annual Ballavue Sup. Other winners were Class A champion Rey Capinianes Class B champion Jun Valerio, Class A 1st runner-up Art Zuluaga, Class B 1st runner-up Bonifacto Domingo, Class A 2nd runner-up Peter Ong and Class B 2nd runner-up Rolando Enriquez, Call The Bellevus at 771-8181 for inquiries.

Women's beach volleyball on TV

GOLF Power today continues its special feature on the Toyota Bai-Intawak Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge with enother exciting elimination match between Philippine Navy and Philippine Army in the open division. The match was played recently at the beach voileyball court of the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig. Golf Power is alred every Sunday at 3 p.m. on RPN 9 and is followed by the popular boxing show "Samsung's Ristorama" at 4 p.m. Fistorama is supported by Samsung, Tanduay Rhum, Mapecon and PCSO.

UA-P vs RTU spikers in MNCAA finals

UNIVERSITY of the Assumption-Pampanga and Rizal Technological Liniversity arranged a titular showdown for the MNCAA volleyball championship after beating their respective semilinal opponents yesterday at the RTU gym. UA-Pampanga won by default over Emilio Aguinaldo College-Cavite while RTU drubbed University of Asia & the Pacific, 25-21, 25-16, 28-24, to reach the Dec. 11 winner-take-all ftnals of the Snickers-chocolate sponsored league. UA-Pampanga also entered the championship of junior basketball, beating Angelicum, 74-68. It will face elimination topoutcher Lourdes-Quezon City



CEREMONIAL PLAG OFF: Ivan Isada and Art Guevarra during the ceremonial flag off of the Speedzone Rally Pilipinas held Saturday at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales.

'Walis tambo'

BAGUIO has not only undergone a nose lift-a terrible one, that is. Its face, alas, has been deformed. The cosmetics surgery proved to be a dud. If this were a case of a Hollywood make-me-pretty job, it'd amount to a stickup.

Suits from all over could end the career of the make-up artist.

The sheriff, if this were an old Western town, would become instant fodder to the lynch mob. Now, tell me, who is Bagulo's

city engineer? He could be the modern-day sheriff who could die with his

I won't hazard a guess why the city has been allowed to deteriorate. I only wonder why city officlais have done nothing to preserve the charm and beauty of this once lofty summer vacation place.

How many love-struck couples of ages ago used the city as their love nest? Wasn't it only a while back that it has gotten the tag "Honeymoon Haven"?

As a kid barely in my teens, it was in Bagulo where I saw the

film "Dr. No." Boy, was I thrilled to the bones. Sean Connery was then the world's darling. Up until Pierce Brosnan came along, there was no James Bond better than Sean Connery.

Oh, the Bagulo of my youth, Al S. what has become of you? The old, rag doll has suddenly become more lovable, huggable, than you.

sucks. The city's deterioration maining remnants of Baguio's was so fast it's become like a person afflicted with terminal cancer. Anytime now, it's going to be a bitter goodbye.

The last five years alone, we saw nothing but steel and concrete protruding in wild abandon like sore thumbs sticking up the city skyline. In a leisurely ride at Session

Road this week, Commodore

Pizarro, the proud PMAct, was nearly in tears as he recalled his haleyon days in Baguio. When the Commodore couldn't find Star Café on Session Road, he

said: "My Bagulo is gone." You think Louie Sison was kid-



The last 10 years or so, yucklit ding when he said that the last regreatness are the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay?

> "I was six years old when I hit my first tee shot at the Baguio Country Club," said Louie, whose BCC team won a Seniors divisional title in the ongoing 55th Fil-Am invitational at both BCC and Comp John Hay "That was in 1949. Oh, how beautiful was the city back in the fifties, staties. Today, I strongly feel only the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay make Bagulo worth visiting."

How about Burnham Park? Whosi You rarely see lovebirds, holding hands, strolling

there nowadays. What you see now is a clump of what Cole Porter sang, "Anything Goes." It's graffiti in another sense: Structures of all shapes and sizes have buried the once serene landscape. The park's tranquil lake has completely lost its mystique.

Even the Mansion House has no more appeal whatsoever. Its wrought fences are rusting, its massive gate not as handsome as it used to be.

The Mine's View Park now has a view that's not too pleasing to the eye anymore.

What riles me the most, though, is that, at the Bagulo Carhedral, they now charge parking fees! Boy, the Cathedral where I was baptized has come a long way, indeed.

In short, harsh as it may seem, Baguio has fallen prey to crass commercialism that the only thing now worth treasuring every time you go up there is the raisin bread at the Baguo Country Club. If you include the walis mmbo, fine.



Rookies galore in 2-day Tour Pilipinas qualifying

So powers T Tagaytay A to victory

TAGAYTAY CITY-Wesley So provided the ione victory as top seed Tagaytay City A edged second seed Mandaluyong City, 2.5-1.5, and 5th seed Maynila A, 3.5-0.5, to enter the quarter-fina, round set today at the Tagaytay City Sports Center here

GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio JE, IM Richard Bittoon and Jerome Balico settled for a truce with Mandaluyong's IM Idelfonso Datu, NM Rolando Noite and Rodolfo Panopio Jr., on board 1, 2 and 3, respectively, in the fifth round on Priday.

However, Merben Roque missed the winning fines allowing 11-year-old So to score Tagaytay City As clincher.

So registered another important win for Tagaytay City A by beating Mayniles' Truman Hernaez in yesterday's sixth and penultimate round of the seven-round elimination format.

Tagaytay City A now has 5.0 points, the same output of 5th seed Maynda B anchored by reigning Asian 3.2a zonal champion GM candidate Ronald Dabieo and IM-candidate Darwin Laylo, who forced a 2-2 draw with sister team Maynila A in the fifth round and edged Muntinkapa City (A. abang) of GM Nelson Mariano II and FIDE Master Oliver Dimakiling, 2.5-1.5, in the sixth round.

At third place is 3rd seed Dasmariñas (Cavite) with 4.5 points, following a 2.5-1,5 victory over Marion Bernardino Mandaluyong City.

300-and more than a third are rookies-for the two-day qualifying for the 2005 Tour Pihpmas set Tuesday and Wednesday in Batangas.

This elated no end Tour Pilipinas Inc. chairman Bert Lina, also president of PhilCycling, the national federation for the sport, who will start imposing to the hilt Union Cycliste Internationale regulations in the annual Tour beginning in 2005.

Lina said the fact that more than a third are rookies or those who have never raced in the Tour before underscores the goal of the Tour of going deep into the grassroots.

Not even the aftermath of typhoons Winne and Yoyong could stop aspirants from the provinces, particularly in cycling cradles like Nueva Ecija and Cagayan Valley, from coming to Barangas for the races to be supervised by the Philippine National Cycling Association. The qualifying consists of a 194.6-km

HE ROSTER swelled close to massed start from Lian via Lemery and Payupa to Alfonso on Tuesday (Dec. 7) and a 39.6kin individual time trial from Balayan on Wednesday (Dec. 8).

All riders will be housed at the Lian Central School and at the Lian Covered Courts, Lian Mayor Osita Vergara, municipal coordinator Mar de la Cruz and parish priest Pr. Mandy Panganiban are also supporting the two-day races.

Seventy-six riders will be picked out of the qualifying for the 2005 Tour. They will join seeded riders Rhyan Tanguilig (defending champion), 2004 third-placer Albert Primero, Rookie of the Year Baler Ravina and Sprint King Enrique Domingo in the 2005 roster.

Ten reams of eight riders each will race in 2005 which will be ran over 10 stages.

Since its inception, Lina has always stressed the need for cycling to dig into the grassroots in the hopes of tapping talents who can be used for international competitions.

Lina revived the Tour in 2002 to inject life back into the sport, which was gasping due to a lack of financial support.



RHYAN Tanguilig will stake his title against hungry, eager rookies.

Ramos, Reynante dispute criterium crown

TEAM TCEs Merculio Ramos and Team Pageor's Lloyd Reynante fight it out for supremacy in closed-circuit racing when the third and final leg of the Cycling Search Invitational Criterium Race presented by Pageor is held today in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

With Ramos and Reynante fied with 23 points after two legs of the circuit, a downthe wire battle for top honors is expected in the deciding 48-km, 15-kap event around the provincial capitol of the city considered as the only surviving colonial

town in the country.

Victor Espiritu, a teammate of Ramos and running third in the overall standings with 18 points, is expected to aid Ramos in pursuit of the team crown.

Team TCL shows the way with 61 points with Team Pageor just five points behind with 56, making the light for team honors and the top P15,000 purse as hody contested as the individual competition, which stakes P5,000 to the winner

The race will be aired live on dzSR 918 starting at 10 a.m.

Like Ramos, the 26-year-old Reynante, son of former two-time Mariboro champion Mani Reynante, will also be counting on teammate Bernard Luzon, ned with Tomas Martinez for fourth in the individual race with 13 points, while Albert Pranero is in sixth with 12 points.

Focus will also be on the elite category, with Team Excellent's Joel Balucos, who leads with 26 points.

The event, organized by Treo Sales and Management Corp. and backed by the cines of Manila, Tariac and Vigan City, vowing a strong finishing kick in Vigan.

Rudy Project, Tarlac Electric Co., Partas Transport, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philpost, UCPB Gen., Masco, WOW Phils., TCL, Philcycling and Air 21, is put up to discover young and aspuring talents both in the men's and women's division.

in fact, the all-women David's Salon team, which includes national team mainstays Marita Lucas and Bing Alto, and former national triathlon team members Anide Leon and Kaye Lopez together with Mona Valdez, is competing in the event.



Editor Louie C. Camino or Emenie G. Velarde

or entertainment@induirer.com.dl

melda Marcos

By Ruben V. Nepales LA Correspondent

ALM SPRINGS, California— "I'm the new Imelda Marcos."

Distracted by both the beauty of Catherine Zeta-Jones and the view behind her-a golf course surrounded by multimillion dollar homes and tocky mountains, your hardworking correspondent is joked back to the press con in progress upon hearing "imelda Marcos."

Whoa, dld Catherine just mention the former Philippine First Lady? And how did the original Imeldific figure in this interview being held in the desert oasis of the rich and famous?

Ler's backtrack. A lady journalist asks Catherine if she seeks therapy in shopping, and for which item-clothes, shoes or

"Shoes," the actress readily answers in that familiar sultry voice. INQUIRER We're in the clubhouse of a private golf course where Catherine's hus. **EXCLUSIVE** allure Everything about band, actor Michael Douglas, is out

no idea how many times I'm going to waik to be able to use all the shoes that I have," she says, laughing. "I mean, it's insane. I think I'm a little borderline obsessive shoe freak. I'm the new Imelda Marcos."

Just because...

I buy shoes just because they're so beautiful. I never wear them but they're beautiful

Catherine Zeta-Jones reveals her love for shoes, and describes a 'typical' working day when she kisses Brad Pitt

pieces of art." She laughs again. "Try explaining that to my husband. He just does not get it. He goes, 'But you never wear them.' I could break my neck if I wore them. Some of them are like this ..." With her fingers, she demonstrates how high the heels

On this glorious fall noon, she's wearing black pumps with soles in dramatic red ("Louis Vuitton," she later tells me as we pose for pictures) to go with a black

blouse and skirt. Her hips swing seductively when she walks. The woman certainly knows how to en-

her-long brunette hair, lips-is playing with our host, "Ocean's sensual. In short, she is right up Twe.ve" producer Jerry Weintraub. "I have there with Charlize Theron, Angelina Jolie sensual. In short, she is right up and Ashley Judd as the most beautiful Hollywood actresses we've met.

Even her "Ocean's Twelve" co-stars, George Clooney and Matt Damon, can't hide their awareness of Catherine's charm. George, whom we interviewed earlier, asked, "Has Catherine been in here yet?" It's "unbelievable," she says. "Sometimes And later, when Matt was told that Catherme was a tough act to follow, he said, "I





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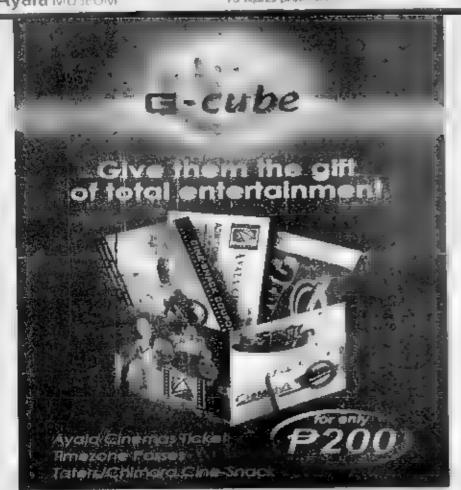
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'I'm the new Imelda Marcos'

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the Philippines. So we ride the shoe issue and ask if she, like Imelda, beenough shoes.

smile. "Come on. Because there are tique shoes and everything. I love

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ine that she has just given us a very certain shoes that must go with cergood headline since we come from tain things on certain days. It's like what my husband says, when I go on vacation: there are the clothes beves that one could never have and there are the bags, and shoes that are as equally important as the "You can't," she replies with a clothes. I just love them. I have an-

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them. I really do love them. I was wondering what ones I got on today."

same In the breath, she adds, laughing yet again: "Gosh, I've got to clear out my cupboards. My husband has told me that I am not allowed to buy anything more. Not another pair of shoes. Not one more bag. Not one more beit."

And so will you not buy anything more? she is asked "Of course I will." she says, her eyes lighting up with a naughty spark. "I can't wait to do some shopping. I've been in Mexico working (on the sequel to The Mask of Zorro'). I need some retail therapy. I need to get out there-I love going to the stores. I like touching them, you know." Her voice goes lower, as if to emphasize the lusty appeal of shoes and stuff "It's not about seeing it in a magazine and ordering it. I got to be there, touch it, got to feel crocod..e leather, feel that purse, you know. So I'm looking forward to a big retail therapy. There's only so many Mexican pon-

chos you can buy."

Obliging

psychobabble Of course, somebody has to spoil the fun and ask these "serious," psychobabble questions: So, that does luxury mean to you? Do you enjoy it or is it more like a necessary evil, that you would rather live in a shack but now you have to live in a

mansion? "I thought we all wanted to live in a shack," she deadpans, her eyes expressing relish.

But the reporter persists, so Catherine obliges: "Well, my life is very different, you know. My husband had houses around the world before I met him and we have houses together (in Bermuda, which they consider home; New York, Majorca, Spain; and they recently leased a house in LA). I don't take money for granted. I've worked since I was 14 years old and even before that. I used to work in singing clubs and get my salary and that was like my pocket money. 1 know that money doesn't come easy and so I am not flippant or frivolous with it.

shoes from time to time but I certainly know the value of money. I certainly respect how hard my husband has worked for everything that he has. Yes, he was brought up in luxury, being the son of a movie star (Kirk Douglas) That life is different from the way I was brought up, It's a completely different world. Neither of us is extravagant, con-

"Yes, I huy some

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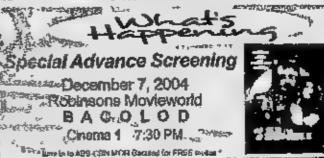
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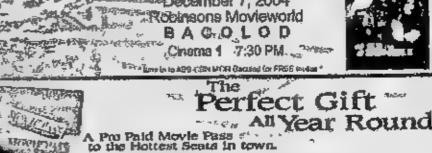
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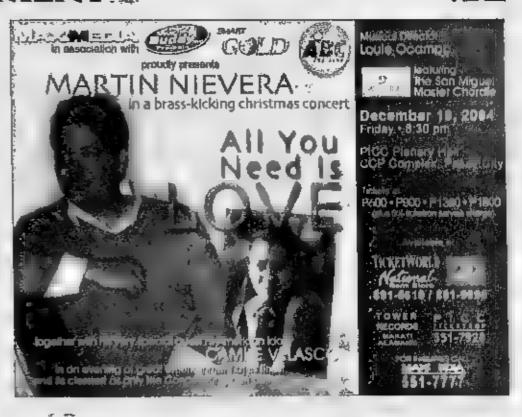
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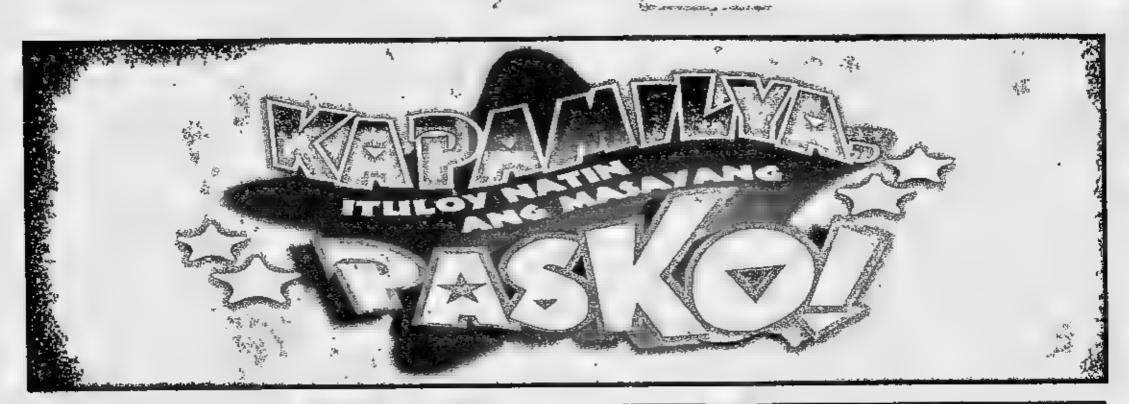




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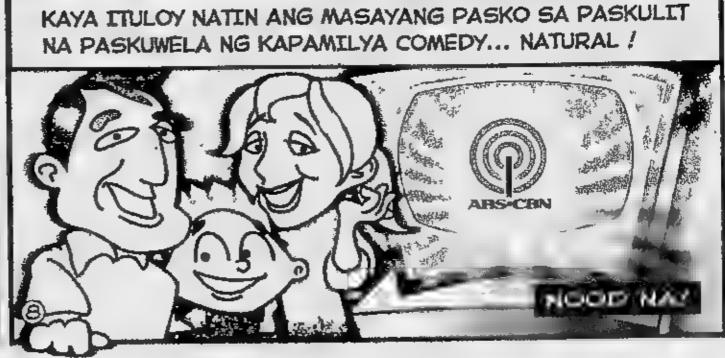
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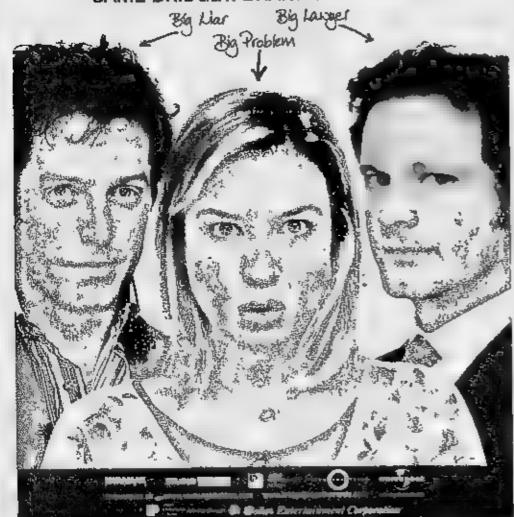
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'I'm the new Imelda'

people think. But we certainly enjoy our lives. We're able to travel and see the world and stay in nice places. I never take that for grant-

Fun with Michael

Asked what she finds fascinating in Michael, with whom has two hids-Dylan, four, and Carys, one-2002's Oscar best supporting actress (for "Chicago") says,
"We're good friends. We were born on the same day, albeit there is a 25-year dif-ference." Like a but schoolmarm. with a naughty twinkie in her eyes, she points to the assembled journalists and admonishes: "Write that down."

When the guffaws die down, she adds, "It was actually our anniversary yester-day. We celebrated our fourth last night. We just have fun together and we look out for each other."

Of course she is asked for details of how they celebrated. She reveals, "We had a wonderful lunch together and came down here. He gave me a Celtic coin that's really beautiful. He brought me coffee in bed this morning. That's always good. Usually, 1 grab a cup of coffee as I'm running out the door but it was nice to have a morning of just relaxing."

As for the kids, she discloses, "They're doing great together. Yesterday, on our way to visit my father-in-law Kirk, Michael and I looked back in the car. We saw Dylan and Carys beads State San \$150 counts пте теуа аоты COURT IN THE THIRD SO

Tough job

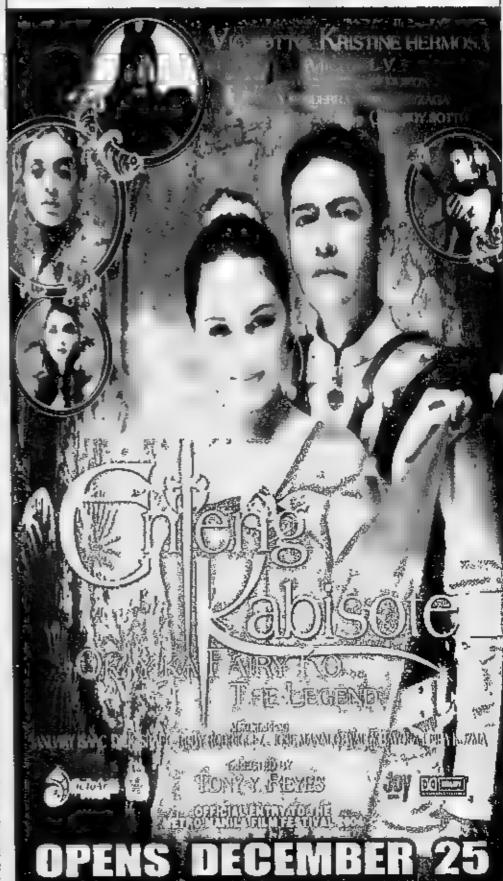
Catherine is next asked how she gets the gorgeous men in

cute and of course, I

didn't have a camera. Terrible moth-

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'I'm the new Imelda Marcos'

her personal and professional life-Michael; George Clooney in "Intolerable Cruelty"; Brad Pitt in "Ocean's Twelve," which is set this time in Europe; and Anto-

: nio Banderas, in the "Zorro" sequel.

"Someone's got to do it," she quips and adds, jesting, "It's a tough job, I know. It's like when my husband asked, "What are you doing today, honey?' I said, 'Oh, I'm kissing "Brad Pitt.' He asked, "Exactly what scene are you doing today?' Well, I'm kissing Brad Pitt on a bridge.' He said, 'Oh, have a great day.' I'm a very lucky girl, no?" But back to being the new Imeida. Does she clean her own shoes? Again breaking in-

to a chuckle, she states, "I clean a lot. I actu-ally like cleaning. I'm always in my closet cleaning."

Yes, sure-if you can imagine Catherine Zeta-Jones down on her knees, brushing off Palm Springs desert sand from suede Louis Vuitton shoes.

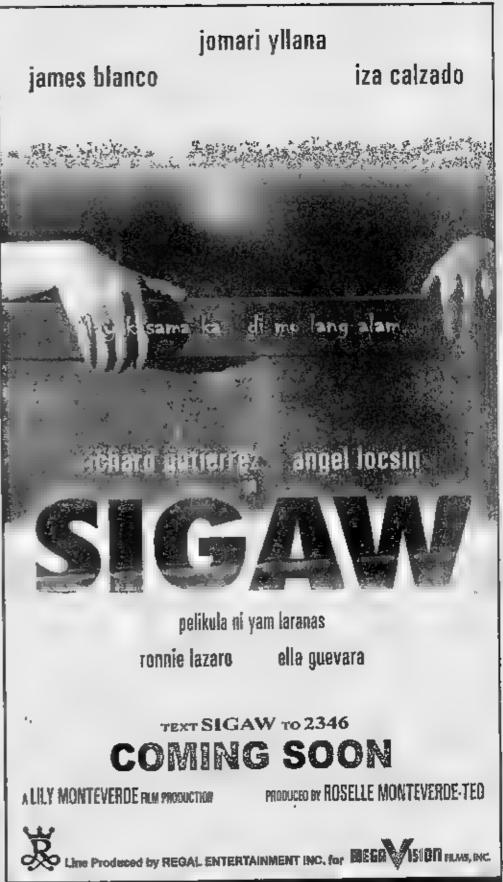


WITH Director Steven Soderbergh. "I'm a very lucky girl."

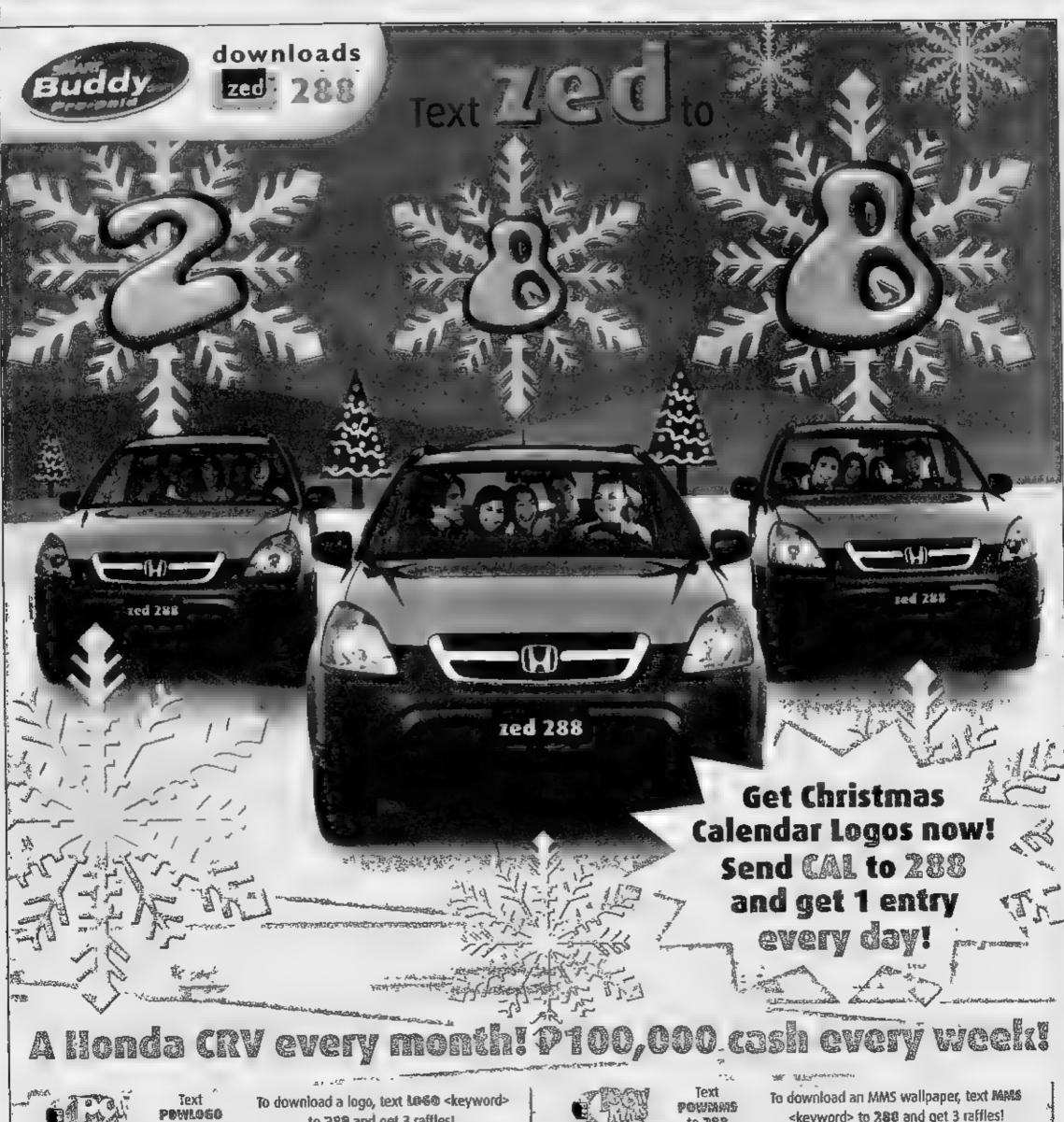


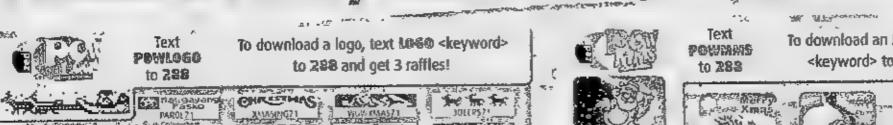






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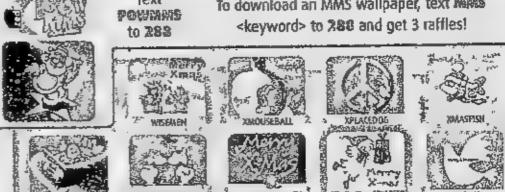
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Away to A Manger

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Editor Louie C. Camino Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Everything Important is Under the See

Hong Kong movies top Asian Oscar nominees

AIPEI—Hong Kong movies lartale. are likely to take center stage at the Chinese-language version of the Oscars in Taiwan on Saturday, with Wong Kar-wai's latest art house movie "2046" topping the list of nominations.

The film by the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong director about the love life of an erotic novelist received eight Golden Horse nominations, including best feature film, ac-

tor and actress. Finished just in time to debut in the Cannes film festival last May, "2046" is another example of an Asian movie that has transcended language and cultural barriers to hit interna-

The film looked to be the strongest contender, said film critic Li Ya-mei.

Tired of Hollywood

"It's not just Chinese movies. Korean movies especially are also gaining interest in Hollywood. The rise of Asian movies shows audiences are tired of a lack of creation by Hollywood and are trying to find good movies e.sewhere, "La said.

But Taiwan director Alex Yang, whose "Taipei 21" won the top prize for best film at this year's Asia Pacific Film Festival, was less certain about the prospects for Asian films, which face much tighter budget constraints than Hollywood rivals.

The director said Asian movies that have enjoyed huge following around the world, such as Ang Lee's martial arts epic, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and Zhang Yimou's "Hero "and "House of Flying Daggers," are rare exceptions.

It is still difficult for independent Asian filmmakers to compete in Hollywood, he

"Movies that are popular in the West have similar characteristics. They have the backing of weal-funded international movie compames and the stories fulfill the fantasy of Western audiences about the East," Yang said

"You need the necessary ingredients to be recognized internationally and be commercially successful," he said.

Dark horse

For 41 years, Taiwan has played host to the from Taiwan, Hong Kong and China. This year the ceremonies will be head in the central city of Taichung.

Contestants from Hong Kong and China have stolen the spotlight in recent years, with Taiwan's once-thriving movie industry in de-

Critics say Taiwan's slow-moving art flans have lost support at home as viewers find them dual and difficult to understand and opt instead for more nail-biting US blockbusters.

Apart from "2046," which stars a bevy of top Asian actors including best actor nominee Tony Leung and best actress nominee Zhang Ziyl, Chinese director Lu Chuan's "Kekexili" is seen as a dark horse candidate for best film.

"Kekexili," a bleak portrayal of life on the Thetan plateau, was nominated in four categories, including best director and best actor.

More contenders

Other contestants for best film are "Breaking News," which combines Hong Kong's favorite cop drama genre with its paparazzistyle journalism, and "One Nite in Mongkok," which is about gang fighting-another popu-

Malkovich in new biopic

VIENNA-John Malkovich will play the lead In a movie about the life of Austrian painter Gustav Klime, a production company said Thursday.

The movie, titled "Khmt," depicts the life of the famous art nouveau painter whose masterpleces include the painting "The Kiss." Shooting for the movie will begin Jan. 4 in Vienna, the film's lead producer, epo-film, said in a statement

Producers from London, Paris and Munich, Germany, are also involved in making the film, which is expected to premiere in May

"I see this film as a waltz," the film's screenwriter and director, Raoul Rulz, said in the

Malkovich eagerly accepted the offer to play Klimt, said Susanne Biro, an epo-film of-

"Me was our first choice," she said. "He physically resembles Klimt and he is a good friend of Rulz."

Person pariné is from Revendur 22, 2004 to January 14, 2005.

Veronica Perres, Stephen Dillane and Nikolai Kinski are also slated to play roles in the film.

Tarwan's "The Moon Also Rises," directed by Lin Cheng-sheng, is also vying for best film and tells the story of a divorced single mother and her adolescent daughter in their sunny but isolated seashore hometown.

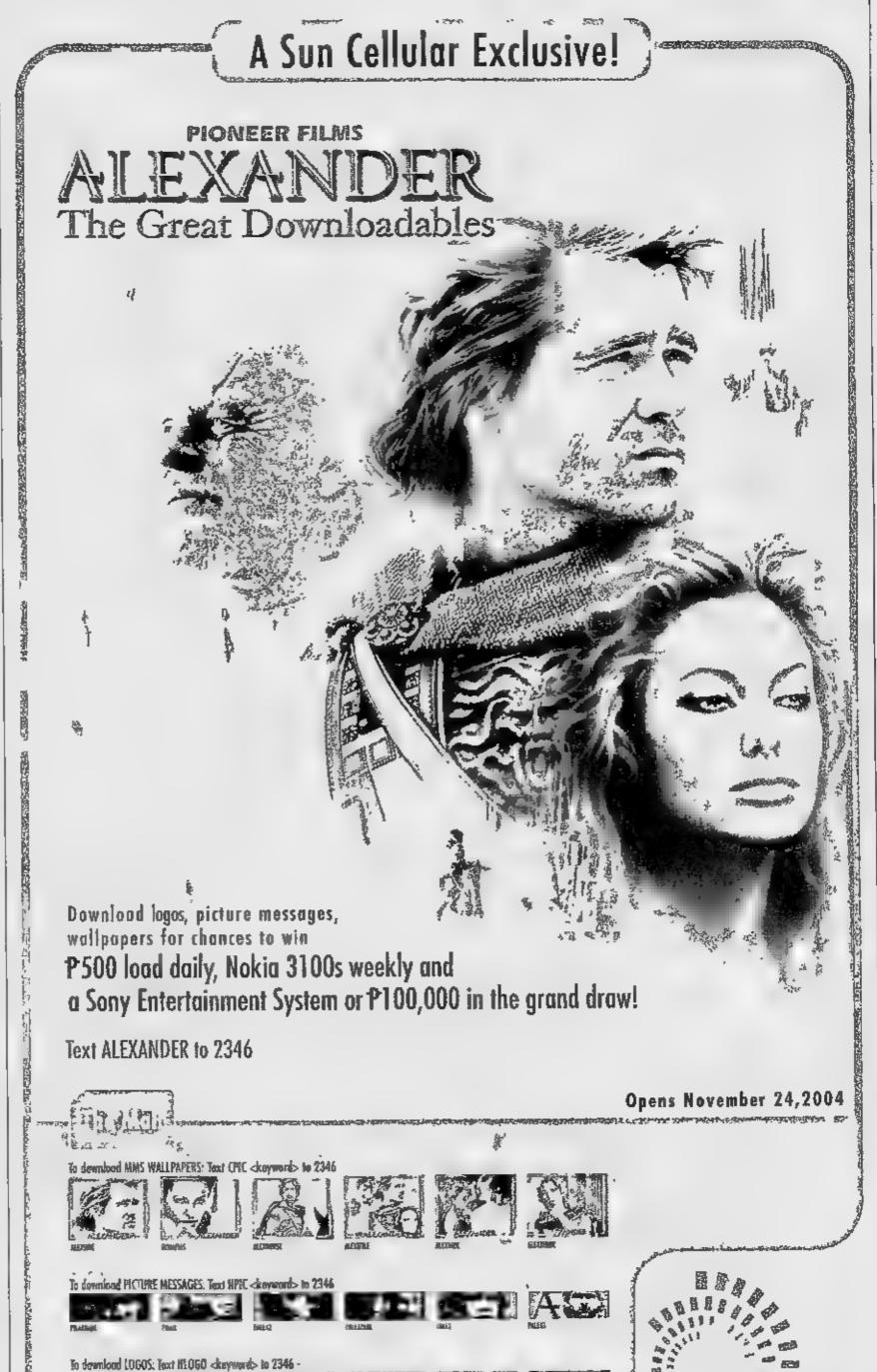
The melancholy drama competes in five other categories, including best actress and best screenplay adaptation.

To revive the past glory of Taiwan chema, once the darling of international film festivals, the government is offering tax breaks and state subsidies to the industry.

Korean movies were no better than ours in the past. If they can do it, so can we," said Lau Ching-hsiung, a Cabmet adviser with the job of drafting plans to reinvigorate Taiwan



Reuters WONG KAR-WAI with his star Gong Li in '2046'



Par Jahrand Present Vin S2784 Senten of 2004. See Many law detect

At long last, happiness

JEFFREY Jeturian's latest film, "Minsan Pa" (written by Armando Lao), tells the affecting story of a tourist guide in Cebu (Jomari Yllana) who lives a life prematurely burdened Nestor with responsibilities due to his irresponsible father's having flown the

As his family's breadwinner, Jomari works hard, but he finds little joy in his personal relationships. As his sad story unfolds, we get the feeling that his father's cavalier departure has traumatized him more than he wants to admit.

More, it's soured his own romantic relationships, and made him doubt if he can love well. This downbeat view of himself is confirmed when a for-



mer girlfriend is knocked up by her new beau, who leaves her high and dry-but she still turns down Jomari's offer to help.

Years later, he sees her happy with her love child and her new husband, and the blissful family tableau pains him, because he seems to have lost all hope for a happy ending to his own romantic search.

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"Monumentally ambitious,

objectives of the epic biopic."

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Oliver Stone's Alexander

"Boldly acted, absorbing

and satisfying as

a history lesson."

-WILLIAM ARNOLD, SEATTLE

accomplishes the twin

Hollywood's master

sents itself when the boyfriend Christian Vasquez of a schoolteacher (Ara Mina) is blinded in an accident, and it looks to Jomari that she could leave her beau and fall in love with him, in-

But she also turns down his offer of lifetime love, so he loses hope once more. Unknown to him, however, he has changed in many significant ways! Taking his cue from his mother, he's finally learned to forgive his father, so one of his inner younds has started to heal.

He's also learned to be more loving to his younger brother, by acting like a sibling rather than a second father. Best of all, he has helped Ara in an

Another chance at happeness pre- altruistic act of love with no strings attached, and this ZNB WEEK - NOW SHOWING ...

helps beal him, as That's why, when

he least expects it, love does enter his afe from an entirely new direction. So, at film's end, we find hum startled, grateful and humbled by, at long last, happiness.

This sad, tender and finally redemptive story is very different from the usual romanuc movie's plots, especially when you consider that its protagonist is male.

He doesn't end up with his leading lady, his search takes him to areas of life beyond romance, and his problems are solved not by the usual, convenient deus ex machina, but by his practically being forced to heal his own, wounded psys

We hope that this lesson isn't lost on the other cockeyed romantics out there, who blame their woes on the usual irrelevant suspects, like faithless lovers, the rich-poor comundrum, or the fickle finger of fate.

Joman's STORY teaches us that, to find love, you must yourself

8



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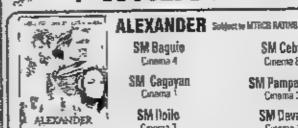
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DECEMBER

Med Kelly's criginal armor was menufactured from the iron mouldboards of a plough. Ready to face off against the police anytime. The Kelly Gang did their best to protect themselves from gunfire.

OPENS

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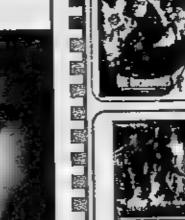
Heath Ledger as Ned Kelly, AGE: 25

Branded PUBLIC ENEMY #1 by the British but a hero among the oppressed. Like Robin Hood before: him, 19th century Ned robbed from: the rich and gave to the poor. £8,000 was offered for his capture at the time, the highest reward the world had known.

WHOEVER WINS... WE LOSE.

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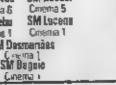


















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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004 ENTERTAINMENT

At long last, happiness From page A2-2

yourself can others see you through your eyes, and find a lot to love.

The process isn't easy. Still, you must see it through, going from one personal relationship to the next, "Minsan Pa," never losing hope in yourself and others, until it all finally comes beautifully together

Jeturian's film has other insights to share,

and goes in other, different directions. But it is the hopeful are to Joman's story that we find most affeeting and illumanating of all.

Feedback

FROM ROBERT I Velez of Cebu City: "I've nonced that you haven't come up with your boob-tube booboos for a long time now. Please give us a fresh batch. so we have something to laugh about. The way our problems are piling up, we need to have a lighthearted lift once in a while!"

From Paul R. Mortel of Marikina City "It's already December, but I notice that no TV station is plugging any coming TV special, like 'Christmas at the White House."

Torres High School reunion

THERE will be a reunion of Torres High School graduates, Barch 1983, on Dec. 29 at Alicia bldg., Juan Luna Stree, Gagalangin, Tondo, Manual For details, .og on to ths83@yahoogroups.com, or call Michelle de Guzman et 436-8440.

Power Memory

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yourself whole. Only when you are lovable to Power Memory is opening its doors to investors. Its franchising arm is committed to giving full support to would-be entrepreneurs. Call 687-

'Motown in Motion'

AT 10:30 tonight, ABS-CBN airs "Motown in Motion," a concert to raise funds to benefit the Bantay Kalikasan La Mesa Watershed and

Eco Park project. The show fields an all-star cast of sinners.

'Rides'

TWO celebrity-packed episodes of "Rides," the Discovery Channel's series on customized dream machines and their makers, will be telecast at 10 tonight. Replays are at 1 p.m. on Dec. 6, and 9 a.m. on Dec. 12.

'ALEXANDER' most talked about film of

The three-time Academy award winner Oliver Stone is undoubtedly one of the most controversial directors in Hollywood, making films that are remarkable for both the way in which their subject matter is handled and the degree of controversy such handling inspires.

the year

Not everyone is happy about Alexander So revered is this great man that top greek lawyers with the sanction of the Greek government, are suing the film's producers for its no-holds-barred portrayal of the Macedonian leader.

Critics were divided. Some called it a masterpiece while others denounced it as a

But love it or hate it. 'Alexander' is no doubt the year's most talked about movie.

Although it did not break boxoffice records during the 'General Patronage' Thanksgiving slot, it was the highest grossing 'Adult Rated' Thanksgiving film now on record.

The great news is that on the international front "Alexander" is opening great and topping the charts everywhere 11 appears that the producers are expecting international results that are comparable to "Troy," which did twice as well in the proportion of international to domestic

Following is a recap of the first few openings:

Scandinavia: The film was a solid No. 1 in all three markets where it opened.

Russia: Estimated grosses show a fantastic performance at approx. \$3.7 Million on 345 screens for a No. 1 opening. Asia: Taiwan, Philippines, Malaysia

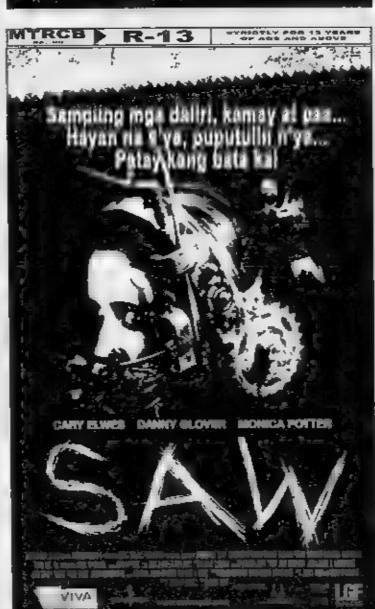
opened at # 1 with speciacular bows.

Turkey: The No. 1 foreign film this

The film is scheduled to open this coming weekend via Warner Bros. in Mexico; in Norway, Greece, Portugal, Israel and the UAE in Europe & Middle East, Singapore in Asia; and in Latvia, Lithuania & Serbia in Ea Europe. •







NOW SHOWING

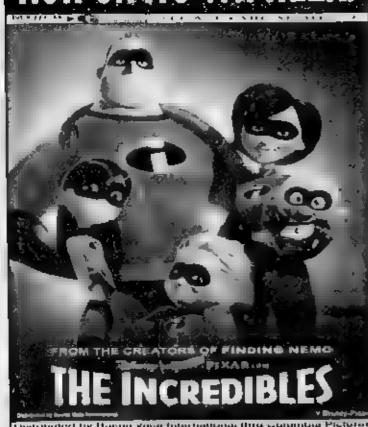
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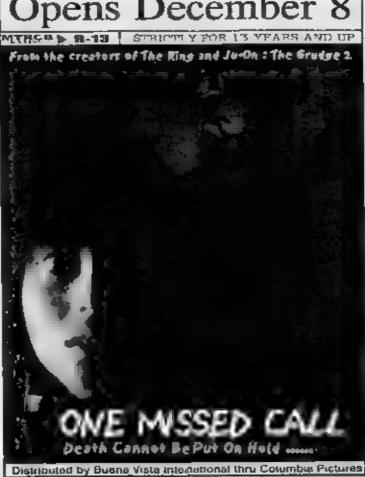
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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ant Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Check out today's 'Inquirer TV Guide Entertainment section

Dino's mom hurts over his preakup

withKim

'Had they not involved the public, they could have sorted things out,' Sonia Ferreros says

By Marinel R. Cruz

HOPE Dino can now concentrate on taking care of his two children. I also hope he stays single."

That was Sonia Perreros talking about her actor son, Dino Guevarra, two days after his wife, Kim de los Santos, fiew to the United States following a violent and very public breakur.

"Kim is a very kind-hearted person," Dino's mom told Inquires Entertainment on Monday. "I think she should follow what her heart dictates and not what other people say. When she is able to do that, she'll, be able to survive her problems.

Last Nov. 21, Kim told "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN that, six days earlier at around 8 p.m., Dino drove her out of the apartment they were renting in Pairview, Quezon City.

Mom's advice

On nationwide television, a sobbing Kim accused her husband of womanizing and abusing her verbally and physically. The two were together for eight years. They met in the early 1990s as members of the cast of GMA 7's teen series "TGIS"

On Nov. 27, Kim left for the US to spend time with her father who, according to her, never approved of the relationship.

"Kim and I were close. She confided in me,"
Sonia said during an interview in her Parahaque
City home. "I always told her, "If you really love
your man, you have to sacrifice." She would ask,
"Until when, Monimy?" I told her to be patient. I
would say, "Everything has an end. Your man
will eventually correct his ways."

She said Kim had run to her days before the couple's last and biggest fight. "She said she couldn't take it anymore. I just shrugged it off. I told myself they'd be able to solve their problems. I didn't want to meddle."

Besides, Sonia said, the best advice "is the one that comes from the Lord." She believed the couple should pray for God to help save the marriage.

In any case, she talked with Dino a few days after the fight. "Although he admitted he said terrible things to Kim," Sonia recalled, "he demed he had another woman. He said the woman Kim was talking about was just a friend."

Painful for all

She insisted that the whole family loves Kim "so much," that the situation "is also very painful for us. I treat my in-laws like my own children, especially Kim. I spent more time with her than with any of my other children's partners."

Soma described her son as "not the type to talk about his problems with just anyone." Therefore, she said, he never liked the fact that Kim told her all their troubles. "But Kim and I became close because I insist on visiting them in Factview. I always wanted to see how

they were doing."

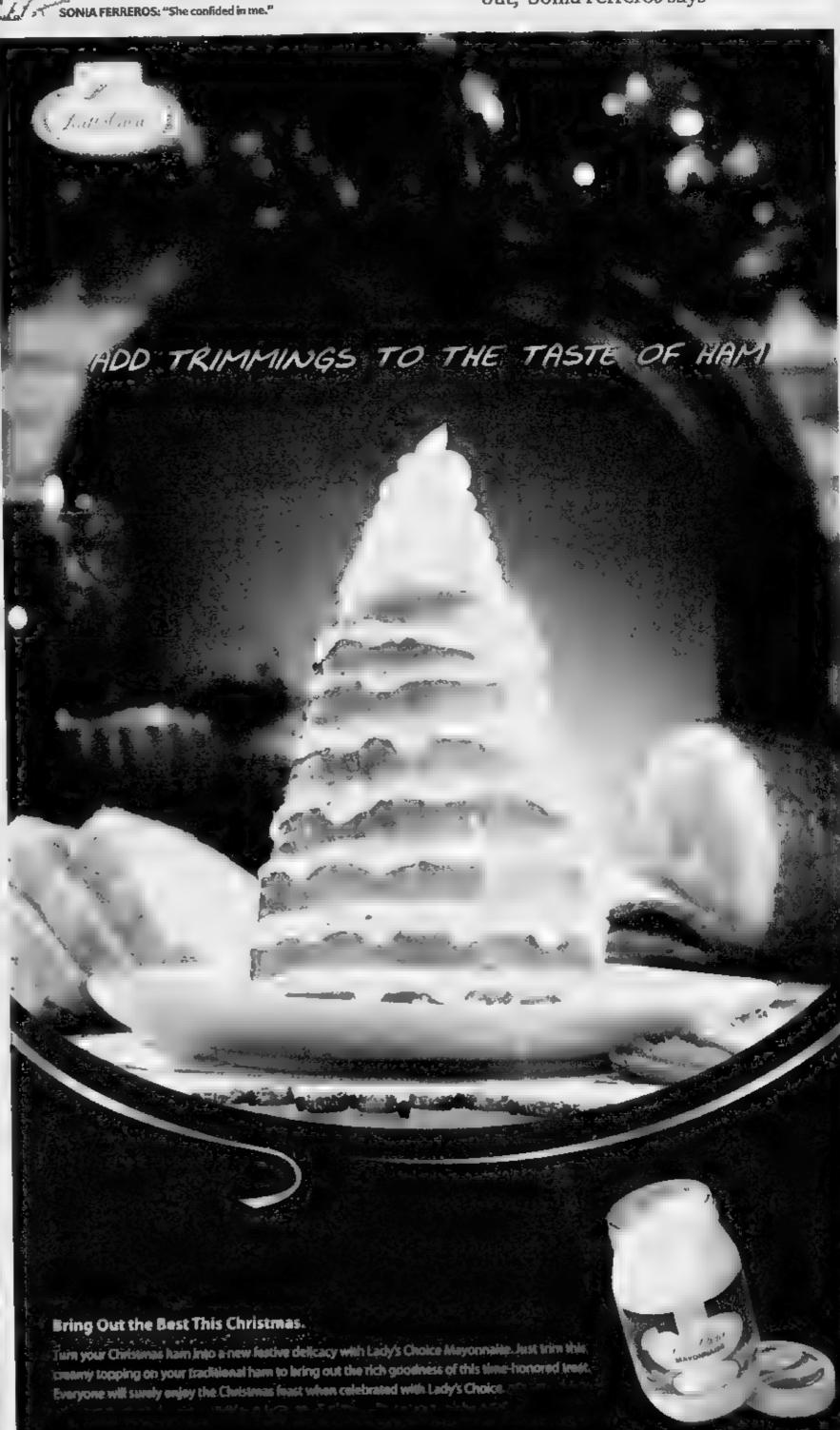
Last Sunday, Dino appeared live on GMA
7's "S-Files" at about the same time that Kim's
taped interview with Boy Abunda was being
aired on "The Buzz" on the rival station,
Channel 2.

"S-Files" director Rico Guneriez decided to cut the interview by host Psolo Bediones after Dino started weeping and cutsing as he de-

NO'S/A3



DINO AND KIM: Young and so in love



ENTERTAINMENT DECEMBERS, 2004

Dino's mom hurts over his breakup with Kim

nied Kim's accusations, and claimed that he had in fact found love letters that she had written to another man.

The real him

"The Dino that you saw on television [last Sunday] was not the artista," said Sonia. "That was really him, angry and hurting.

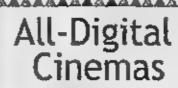
I was supposed to give a message for him and Kim. I was to tell Dino to sit down and talk with Kim again. Had they not involved the public, they could have sorted things out Now I think it will take long before they can make up. I know Dino. When someone harts hun, it takes time before that someone can win back his trust."

Dino-who is in the cast of GMA 7's "Bahay Mo Ba "To," with Tessie Tomas and Ronaldo Valdez-is Dino Ross in real life, son of an Australian father, a scientist. From his mother's previous relationship, Dino has six brothers and three sisters, all surnamed Ferreros.

Sonia said because Dino was a menopausal baby, she tended to be softer on him than on the older children. "I raised my kids to be usdependent. I taught them to fend for themselves at an early age— I was taught that way, too. But Dino is special. He is my youngest. He was so beautiful when he was a child. He had golden, curly hau. I think I spoiled him."



"DINO is special. I think I spoiled him."





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BREATHLAKING

PLUS

TEXT 2910 NOW!

Alome again



NOT SO BLUED. Blossom rib trimmed packet, worn with Jeans.

By Larry Leviste, Contributor Photos by Egay L. Montaña

LIGHTS, camera.

Dino Guevarra and wife Kim de los Santos has been televised and tabioid-ized to death

Last Sunday, like the sad ending of us." of a telenovelo. Kim left for the
United States. Her plane ticket was
reportedly purchased by television
This exclusive PDI pretonal hosts Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda. Boy had the last interview with

Kim for "Kontrobersyal."

Dino said he rished to the airport wearing only shorts and a T-shirt because, he would later re-

minute: "If you stop me, I'll stay." But when he saw TV cameras at

the gate, he decided not to push it.
"I love her still," the young ac-The scap operatic split up of tor would say on nationwide tele-ino Guevarra and wife Kim de vision, in tears. "She's my wife. I wish all the other people realize that this is just between the two

For whatever it's worth, the

This exclusive PDI pictorial shows Dino Guevarra modeling Diesel sportswear only a week be-fore his world, as he himself put it, "came crashing down."

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FRESHOM BY DIESE, MONLANDE AT GREENBELT 3





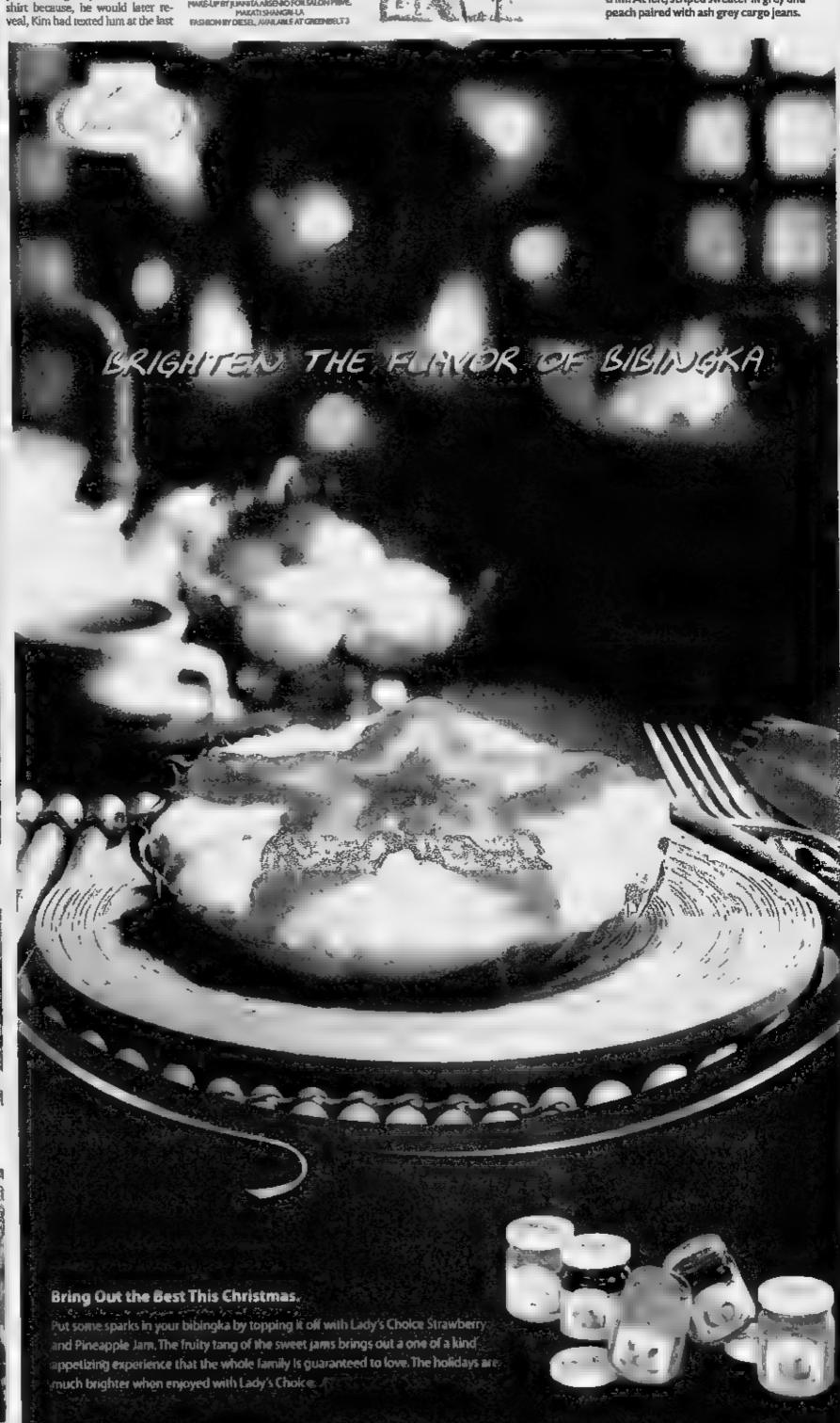
DIESEL MAN, In varsity Jacket with checkered lining and peach and apple green trim. At left, striped sweater in grey and



SOLO. Bomber Jacket in white twill with windowpane checkered pants and a tee.



CLASSIC. Take on the '50s with lumberjack plaid shirt and button-fly indigo denims.



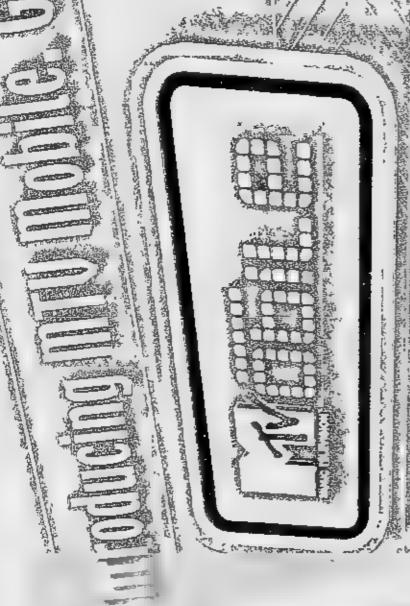
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Get your R&B fix with downloads of MTV Mobile's Featured Artist - Destiny's Child.

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Editor Louie C. Camino Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde



BUSY, BUSY

Hard work pays off for ol

IF 2004 WAS good, 2005 will be even better. she was very nice to me."

This is what people are saying about singer, accress and TV host Jolina Magdangal, who is gearing up for what will undoubtedly be a very busy time for her next

Jolina currently has four regular shows, three on GMA 7-"Starstruck," "Love 2 Love," and "SOP Rules"—p.us "The Working President." She says she particularly enjoys hosting the latter, because it lends her career a different dimension. She gets to interview Cabinet secretaries, mayors, congressmen and occasionally, the President herself.

Loving it

During one of these few occasions, the crew was busy setting up in one corner of Malacañang when Jolina saw the President coming, her brow furrowed and her face the picture of intense concentration. But when she saw Jolina, Ms Macapagal-Arroyo broke into a wide smile and asked how she was. They ended up charting about the President's grandchildren and other things that had nothing to do with government matters

"I could see she's serious about her work," Jolina says of the President. "But der-is this really ours?"

Next year, the singer-actress is looking forward to still hosting the show, on top of which many other things are lined up. These include concert tours of Asia, Europe and the United States, a second album with GMA Records,

and the launch of new products for Jolina's Fashion Gallery.

SHOW STOPPER

No regrets That she is as active as ever after 15 years in the business is the result of hard work, Jolina says. "I love my job, and I have taken care of it. I

sacrificed for it. I have no regrets." Her career has been very good to her in turn. She has bought a house in an exclusive subdivision in Quezon City-a dream since she was just a child attending workshops with Repertory Philippines. At the time she was a regular in "Ang TV," which was being taped in a big house. She told herself she wanted a house just like that. Jolina took a photograph of it and kept the

snapshot under her pillow. Years later, after buying the house that her family is now living in, Jolina looked at the photograph again. She was surprised at the uncanny similarities. "So now," she says, "I look around the house and won-

Kapuso Foundation needs help for typhoon victims

THE GMA Kapuso Foundation, GMA Network's socio-civic arm, announces that it is "in ciothes and toiletries (soaps, toothpastes, date need" of donations for relief operations toothbrushes, etc.) are most needed in the in the provinces of Quezon and Nueva Ecija and in the Bico. Region --- areas most devastated by the strong typhoons that recently hat the

The refugee centers in these typhoon-myaged areas are swarming with thousands of families who lost their homes in flash floods and landshaes that killed a still undetermined number of people.

Medicines, mats, blankets, foods, refugee centers. Donations may be delivered to the GMA Kapuso Foundation office (11th Jamboree St. corner Edsa, Diliman, Quezon City) Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Cash donations may also be deposited to the Foundation's Metrobank accounts: numbers 3-098-51034-7 for peso donations, and 2-098-00244-2 for dollar donations.

'Feng Shui' now on DVD, VCD

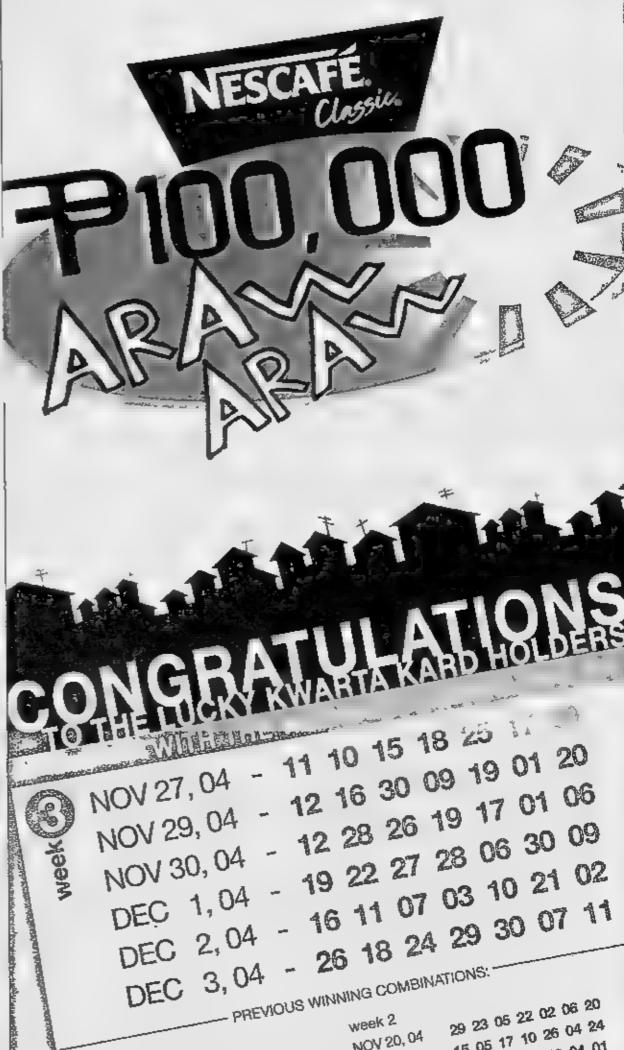
STAR Cinema's biggest horror brockbuster, "Feng Shui," is now available on video.

The movie stars Kris Aquino and is directed by Chito S. Roño, The video release -on DVD, VCD and VHS format—is sponsored by Smart Buddy, in cooperation with Star Records of

The story unfolds when Joy and her family

move into a new home. In a bus, Joy finds a murror called bagua, which she installs on her front door. This starts a series of mysterious and unfortunate events.

Written by Roy Iglesias, "Peng Shui" stars Jay Manalo, Lotlot de Leon, Jenny Miller, Gerard Pizarras, John Vladimir Manalo, Julianne Gomez, Periest Sto. Tomas and Honah Jean.



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ENTERTAINMENT 'Bunso': A tug at the heart, a permanent rage

MOMENTS after watching "Bunso," I could not bring myself to speak. Its director Dital Carolino and camera person Nana Buxani were there, and I almost wished they hadn't been.

Of course, I could have said Jo-Ann Q. straightaway. Moving, intense, graphic, finely crafted. I could also have said: An indictment of the justice system, of education and social welfare, and of the Itsoy, 11, church stand on family planning.

things we need to do for those of whom it has been said. They shall and Diosel, inherit the earth. I might even have added: A more outstanding offering on Human Rights Day will be hard to find.

And I would have been calling it exactly as I saw it. All those statements would have been correct and honest and rational For indeed, this documentary on children in prison is every one of those things.

But, somehow, I could not make myself speak. And I think now it was because, while my mind knew right away what It wanted to say, my senses were still back in that Jail, working, frantically, to memorize the faces of Itsoy, Anthony, and Diosel.

Somehow, I fest that speaking would break my memory. And I did not want to forget.

A face and a name

It is even clearer now that the wonder of Ditsi and Nana is in the way they always put a face and a name to what may be, to others, largely an issue, a cause, a problem.

Where others like to provide overviews, these two cut up suces of life. Where others ex-

IUICE Maglipon

Again, I could have said: A Anthony, 13, compeding reminder about the Anthony, 11—boys who should be inheriting the earth. Where are they now?

> just go ahead with their anecdotes. And where others like to sound intelligent and big, these two simply carry on, catching the irony, freezing that vacant look, seizing a boy in song-and capturing them all in their PD150 camera

These two have done it this way before, of course. Their 1996 documentary, "Minsan Lang Sila Bata," was filled with children working in abattoirs and sweatshops. Their 2002 work, "Riles," was the funnyplain the problem, these two sad story of a family living along

the railroad tracks. And now, at the tail-end of 2004, their "Bunso" is the tale of three young inmates in a Visayan Jail.

But it would be so wrong to think that these documentaries don't bring in the bigger pic-

Take "Bunso." It may look like its material is simply about DFA three boys behind bars, but it should not be a big leap for anyone watching "Bunso" to start asking: Just what do we have by way of a juvenile justice bill anyway?

In fact, when Ray Dean Salvosa of the Consuelo Foundation-named after Doña Consuelo Zobel Alger-proposed this material to Ditsi and Nana, it was with the intent of getting such a bill, moribund in the House since 1999, passed

But more than that, says Ray, he wanted a documentary that would alter society's attitude toward minors in prison. In Ray's view, They are not criminals when they go to jail, they are one-time offenders. But the system processes them into becoming criminals."

That Ray can think like this, when in 1990 his own brother was "murdered by two boys," reveals, not only the depth of his understanding of this problem, but of his belief in children

It is a belief that, with their every work, Dits; and Nana have proved they share.

Their prologue and epilogue texts in "Bunso" go right ahead to announce that they feel a "moral imperative" to do this documentary, so that they may do their bit in righting the wrong committed against the 58,000 children still trapped in jails all over the country.

And they've made this point



DOCUMENTARY filmmakers Nana Buxani (left) and Ditsi Carolino at the World Premiere of "Bunso" at the 2004 International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam

even stronger by making Itsoy, 11, Anthony, 13, and Diosel, 11 their ages when "Bunso" began filming in 2001—their stars in this 63-minute documentary.

No hard self

But it is to Ditri and Nana's credit that they do not tell the viewer what to feel. They do not insult by spelling things out They leave the stories to write themselves.

Instead of summing up Itsoy's cynicism, for instance, they let the scenes make the point Itsoy

hisses at his mother: "You said I would be out Friday! How many Fridays have passed? So many Findays?" But the mother, seizing upon his tone, says, "You're a bad kid! You stay locked up to there. You're good for nothing "

They did not even want to add music ong nally. And wisely, they leave the last scene to the artless Diosel who sings, for the camera, a Max Surban song talking about children obeying their parents, going to school, respecting their teachers, and looking to the future

It is up to the viewer to understand that the boy is singing about a world he will never have. It is also up to the viewer to believe that the boy is simply singing because he wants his moment before the camera.

This is not to say that Ditte and Nana do not shape the stories to say what they want said No artist worth the name can be found so remiss

The viewer has a choice

Diosei, and Anthony

But where itsoy was a wild cat, feisty, and a survivor, Diose. rent to prison because he stole clothes he had one peso coins from a store and three cans of sardines.

As Diosel tells it, when the store owner suddenly returned, he wanted to put back the coins. 44 in all, but could not because they would rattle and give his hiding place away. And there were three cans of sardines because one was for himself, one for his brother, and a third for his friend

The store owner actually for gave him, saying it was too small a thing to send the boy to sail for it was Dioses's farher that had him locked up anyway.

Anthony

But of the three boys in "Bunso," it is Anthony I have most

memorized Anthony was intelligent, po-

lite, full of life. But he had to be the original poster boy for hard His father, whenever drunk,

punched him in the ribs, tied him in chains, threatened to kill him, and had once run him down with an oar. His pregnant mother, who hated her husband, told Anthony It was better for him to stay in jail where he was safe from his father.

At the time the documentary was shot. Anthony had been in and out of prison three times. By then, he had small tattoos here and there. Well, he stole for a living, he said. Adding sheepishly: "You'll never believe how much I've stolen. The biggest was . . 90 thousand pesos!"

Then he made clear, his voice all earnest: "I steal only from the rich and never from the D000

In fact, he is a kind-hearred kid, who bothered to tell another boy, who was younger than him and who was without a sin And 30 their choice of Itsoy, gle shirt, that he would find him one. At the time, Anthony himself had been wearing his shorts and jacket for ten days straight was a charming innocent. Diosel because they were the only

am always itching," he

It was the same thing that Itsoy, who also grew boils and was marked badly all over his little frame, would say again and

And, although the documentary doesn't go there, the viewer must wonder: How is it in the night? When the gares clang shut and the kids are at the mercy of the adult inmates, what? Which world is the safer one for these boys? Or is there none?

Dirsi Carolino has asked herself these questions time and again But for now, she believes. she has only her work to help

her get the answers I could teil her, That is almighty help right there. But once again, I couldn't speak.



A STILL Image from the documentary film "Bunso," which will have its Philippine premiere at the UP Film Institute on Friday, Dec. 10, at 2, 4, and 7 p.m. Tickets available at the screening site.



TICKET PRICES: P5000, P3000, P2500, P800, P500, P200 • CALL

DAHIL SA INYONG PAGTANGKILIK AT PAGTITIWATA WALANG PATID ANG TAGUMPAY NA PATULOY NATING NAKAKAMIT

OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS

AGB PHILS.	SEPT.	ост.	NOV.*
GMA	18.0	18.8	19.3
ABS-CBN	15.6	14.0	13.8

'Nov 28-30 data are based on overnight ratings.

NIELSEN MEDIA PHILS.	SEPT,	ост.	NOV.**
GMÃ	14.8	15.8	15.5
ABS-CBN	11.4	10.9	10.7

"Latest available data until Nov 27 only

NOVEMBER* 2004 DAYPART RATINGS

MORNING (Gam-12nn)	Maken Media	ACS Phile
GMÁ	9	11
ABS-CBN.	7	8

AFTERNOON (12ms-8pm)	THE PARTY NAMED IN	Constitution of the Consti
GMA	16	20
ABS-CBN	10	13

EVENING (6pm-12mn)	AGE PAL				
GMÃ	21	27			
ABS-CBN	15	20			

"Latest available Nielsen Media date until Nov. 27 only: Nov 26-30 AGB Phils. data based on overnight ratings.

TOP 20 PROGRAMS (November* 2004)

Mega Manila TV Households

Nielsen Medla Phils.

17 out of the top 20 propries are on the

Rank	Program	Channel	Rating (%)
1	MULAWIN	GMA	28.7
2	EXTRA CHALLENGE (Mon-Fri)	GMA	27.5
3	EAT BULAGAI SILVER SPECIAL	GMA	27.3
4	BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS	GMA	25.1
5	EXTRA CHALLENGE (Set)	GMA	25.1
6	24 ORAS	GMA	24.6
7	MARESTIGADOR	GMA	24.6
à	SLAMDUNK	GMA	23.9
9	STARSTRUCK	GMA	23.0
10	EAT,,, BULAGAI (Sat)	GMA	21.9
11	MARINA	ABS-CBN	21 8
12	NAKSI	GMA	20.7
13	MEL & JOEY	GMA	20.5
14	FOREVER IN MY HEART	GMA	20.3
15	KAPUSO MO JESSICA SOHO	GMA	20.3
16	IT MIGHT BE YOU	ABS-CBN	19.5
17	ALL STAR K!	GMA	19.5
18	KRYSTALA	ABS-CBN	19 4
19	EAT BULAGAI (Mon-Fri)	GMA	19.4
20	RUNE SOLDIER	GMA	18.4

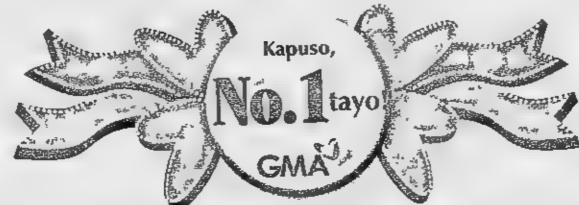
*Lotest overlooks data until Nov 27 only.

15 OUT OF THE TOP TO PROGRAMS AND DIS BMA.

AGB Phils.

	Program Namo	Channel	Reling (%)
1	MULAWIN	GMA	36.5
2	EXTRA CHALLENGE	GMA	35.5
3	IMBESTIGADOR	GMA	32.0
4	24 ORAS	Gt//A	31.3
5	Section 1	ABS-CBN	30 8
6	BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS	GMA	30.0
7	SLAM DUNK	GMA	29.0
В	STARSTRUCK	GMA	28.8
9	IT MIGHT BE YOU	ABS-CBN	28 3
10	MAXIM	A89-CBN	27.5
11	LOVERS IN PARIS	ABS-CBN	27 4
12	KAPUSO MO JESSICA SOHO	GMA	26.9
13	KRYSTALA	ABS-CBN	26 9
14	ALL STAR KI	GMA	26.8
15	EAT BULAGA	GMA	25.8
16	IRENE	GMA	25.6
17	MEL & JOEY	GMA	25.4
18	FOREVER IN MY HEART	GMA	24.5
19	PINOY POP SUPERSTAR	GMA	24.6
20	MAGPAKAILANMAN	GMA	23.3

*Nov 28-30 date are based on trientight relings.



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year,





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PROME DURATION: NOV. 8 TO JAN. 15, 2005

great things possible GI-be

Bud Breit für eine ber Der Die Stellt Werent fen, Affill, fin fen ei bil

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Farm boy moves on to build half of Makati.

By Tina Arceo-Dumiao

ONE of the earliest memories of construction magnate David M. Consunji is of waiting with his mother at a public market for the person who dropped the 50-centavo coin that his mother found.

They waited for hours, as his mother refused to leave until she returned

the coin to the rightful owner. Honesty, his mother always said, was the best policy.

It was a lesson the 83-year-old Consumi never forgot, and it provided the strong foundation upon which construction giant DM Consumi Inc., which is celebrating its 50th year in the business, was button.

Not a small feat for this native of Bataan who first aspired to be a

Consunji says in an interview that the blood of farmers runs through his veins and that he has always worked the land, since he spent his first 11 years in his father's town of Hermosa

Earning at 10

He was in charge of accompanying his mother to market and he would regularly tag along with his siblings who accompanied their father to the farm.

It was at a farm where Consunji first built a successful business from his small poultry of 70-80 chickens in 1931.

Consunji sold about two to three dozen eggs a day at about 1-2 centavos each, making him earn quite a fortune at just 10

years old. That experience encouraged him enough to ask his father to allow him to take up agriculture at the UP Los Baños, where his father

"I really wanted to take up agriculture but my father dissuaded me. He said that one idiot in the family was enough. It was my older brother who asked me to consider engineering, since he was also taking up engineering at UP I heed ed his advice," Consunji says

It slowly dawned on the reluctant engineer that construction was his destiny and he persevered in his studies, which was interrupted by World War II

But the importance of what he was about to do did not really hit him until 1948 when he was asked to design and build the four-story mulupurpose building of the Marcelo Rubber Co. in Panda can, Man.la, for P500 a month.

He was excited but apprehensive at the time. He bought his first slide rule and reviewed his structural and design plans like never before

He reviewed them again when he was done

When he finally put his signature on the plans, he supervised the construction and put everything that he learned about mixing concrete into the building-right down to the pouring of the last pound of con-

crete. Even when it was done after 10 months and everybody assurea him that he did a good job, he was still nervous. So neryous that he would

visit the building once a month was still standing.

Becoming a builder

Consunji says that the Marcelo Rubber Plant building was the beginning and the end of his designing ca-

To be a builder was his destiny, perhaps because it appealed to his farmer's heart, which relished literally getting his hands dirty and working close

By 1950, he was a husband, a for two years just to make sure it father to a growing brood and the was still standing. father to a growing brood and the started doing construction jobs and did everything himself. He was the driver, engineer, foreman and even a handyman.

But each job raught him a little bit more about the world of construction. Contracts became more complex and challenging and by 1954, DMCI was born.

One of the first orders of the day for the fledgling company was to set out its vision and mission. He knew what he wanted



CONSUNJI during his high school days



CONSUNJI during a trip to China



DAVID M. Consunji today

his company to stand for, and he made sure that al. the existing and future employees would know it too.

Construction, Consunji says, is a noble profession and its activities are vital to economic development and national progress

His company's role as a contractor is to give its best to the client in faithful compliance to the contract, and that ill-gotten wealth violates business ethics and wreaks havoc on the public

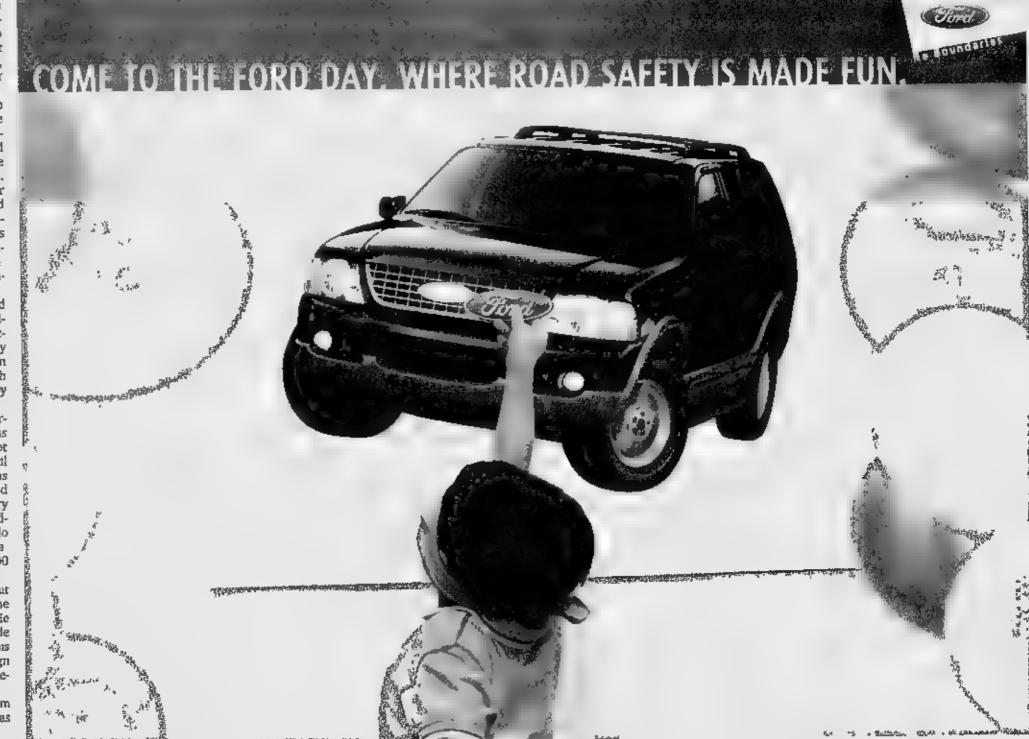
"It is easy to make money in construction, but it is hard to

make a name in this business," Consumí says.

He chose the harder route and challenged humself to build a name in the business right from his first project, which was the Manda Doctor's Hospital in 1954, followed by the UP Chapes in 1955 which has become a landmark in construction due to its use of heavy concrete.

In 1958, DMCI put up its first building in Makati, the Monterey bunding which was demolished to put up today's Pacific Star at the corner of Makati Paseo de

BUILDER/ 82



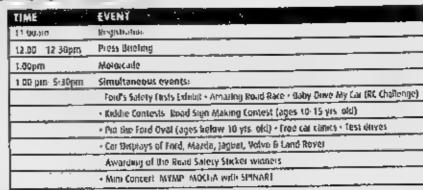
Bring the whole family to the hottest automotive event of the year! At Ford Day, you can test drive awesome vehicles from the Ford family, learn more about Road Safety and have fun all at the same time. Lots of tun games and cool prizes await you and your family. There's even a ratile draw every hour. See you there!













December 11, 2004. The Fort.

- * METRO MANILA. Feed Alabang, Hugh Line: \$42-3681 Fax 807-4430 Ford Bakintawak, Trunk Line: \$27-9648, Fax 927-5987 Ford Commonwealth, Trunk Line: \$52-918 / 952-9446, Fax 957-9440 feed EDSA, Brunk Line: 744-2227 Fax: 723-6317 Ford LDSA Service Center, Fel. No. 726-718: Ford LBIS, Trunk Line: 637-2448: Fax 647-3408 Ford Makint, Trunk Line: 818-5555, ax 818-9513 Ford Manilla, liquid Line: 627-5555, Tax: 562-6985 Ford Quezon Are., Brunk Line: 742-3445; Fax: 607-5525, ax 818-9513 Ford Manilla, liquid Line: 77-0882: Fax: 717-1390 LUZON: Ford Cabanatural, Brunk Line: (040)462-9060, Fax: (040)402-9200 Ford Cavite, Brunk Line: (040)472-2048 Ford Dagupan, Brunk Line: (040)472-2048 Ford Dagupan, Brunk Line: (040)472-2057 Ford Cabanatural, Brunk Line: (040)472-2057 Ford Caban

Helping people live their lives well

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

"WE'LL help you live your best

I This is what General Nutrition Center (GNC) Live Well promises its market, and that is exactly what many people-those fully aware of the threats posed to their health by the pressures of a tough, fast-paced environment-want to hear.

People know that with their lifestyles—the late nights out, the hastily cooked or take-out food they eat, the stress in the workplace-and the unclean surroundings they are exposed to, they would need something short of a miracle to avoid various auments and live a healthy life longer.

GNC Live Well does not offer drugs or cure to any adment. It, instead, makes available an array of dietary and health food supplements that provide the notnents that may be lacking in the food people cat today or those that people iose fast with the pressures they have to go through daux

There are vitamins and minerals for men, women, kids and teens, herbal food supplements for various purposes, dietary and weight management products; sports nutrition, and piattnum formula for the sensors.

The store se.ls, for instance, antioxidants that protect one from radica, damages from environmental toxins, intense sunlight and smoking. There is whey process that supposes guitamine and branched chain amino acids to athletes since prolonged highintensity exercise decreases their glutamine levels. For working women, there is a dietary supplement that contains calcium, foncacid and vitamin D. For men, GNC offers a premium multivitamin and minera, supplement that promotes normal prostate function, heips treat various sexual dysfunction, strengthens the immune system, enhances mental function, and supports a hearthy cardiovascular system.

Health conscious

These food supplements are fast becoming a necessity, says 34-year-old Jose Vito Luis IV Borromeo, vice president for operations of Healthy You, the exclusive franchisee in the Philippines of GNC Live Well of the US.

In many countries, says Borromeo, such food supplements are

now part of the people's daily in-

The global market for these products was estimated at about \$128 bil ion in 1999

The Philippine market may not be as marure as the developed countries are when it comes to food supplements but, JV says, we are getting there."

With the speed information is being passed around by the Internet and the higher leve, of education people are getting now, it has become less difficult for GNC and the other health food stores to reach out to the market

More and more Filipinos are beginning to realize it is far better to invest in their health now than spend for hospitalization later. They want to enjoy the rest of their lives walking around, free of medication. Thus, despite their tight schedules and finances, a growing number of them take time out and shell out part of their budget for sports and health food supplements.

Getting into the business

The Borromeos have been in the health food business since 1980, but it was only in 1994 when Healthy You got the franchise of GNC Live Well, the world's largest chain of health food stores.

It was JV's parents, company CEO Jose Vito and president Mary Anne, who built Healthy You, but it was the mother who started it all JV said his mother, who has been health conscious all her afe, used to buy food supplements whenever she traveled abroad. Her friends used to ask her to buy some stuff for them and that gave her the idea to put up a store and set, these goods in the local market, initially, her clients were mainly the healthconscious housewives.

The business for the Borromeos was good even during the start up years but their best years so far were during the time of the Ramos administration

The economy then was good, so people had more money to spare and the market really grew substantially. Consumers became more sophisticated as education got better and information spread faster through the internet enabling people to know and appreciate the importance of these health food supplements,

It was at that time when, JV as well as the mushrooming of have health benefits that go be-



RASKETBALL player Nic Belasco is one of GNC's endorsers



IV BORROMEO at the entrance of GNC at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell.

says, the business was growing by 20-30 percent yearty.

The growing popularity of health food and dierary supplements in the country can be best shown by the steady growth in the tales and number of GNC old up These are the people

other health food supplement shops

The

Borromeon

had rix Healthy You outlets carrying all lands of health foods-vitamins, minerals, brown rice and various lunds of organic products---in-1994 when it decid ed to focus on health supplements and became GNC

chusee in the country. Growing sales

Live Wed's sole fran-

GNC Live Well in the Philippines just turned 10 years old last October, It now has 50 stores nationwide, mostly in Luparticulariy zon Metro Manua It has seven outlets in Visayas and Mindanao. It has been opening four to five outlets yearly.

Its current market in the Philippmes is composed largely of

health-conscious moderately to highly educated working people, particularly those who are fitness and sports oriented JV says the age group is 25 years Live Well outlets in the country, who believe that certain foods

yond basic nutrition and may reduce the risk of disease or other health concerns.

Although the economy has not been doing well lately, JV says GNC continues to enjoy steady sales growth.

"Despite the difficult times, people have not given up their food supplements yet. Or maybe it is during the hard times when people invest more in their health knowing that getting sick can be much more cost,y," he

The Borromeos health food stores came to be known in the market initially by word of mouth. When it became a GNC franchisee it started to enjoy international PR (public relations) but this was deemed not enough by the Borromeos.

"It is not difficult to sell our products since they carry an international brand," JV says Deapite this, Healthy You still opted to adopt a marketing tack that aims to further reach out to its

GNC Live Well provides education on health food supplements within the stores, Its sales personnel guide the clients on selecting the best products that can help them meet their desired results. It maintains a hotline (721 4462) at tended by doctors who provide anowers to quenes on GNC products.

Last year, GNC Live Well also

next 50 years.

started its sports marketing strategy, it tapped two popular basketbal, players who, it believes, live up to the clean and healthy image of the company-Al. Peck who just transferred to Coca-Cola and Nic Belasco of San Miguel-to promote the products.

Sports marketing

The two were personally handpicked by JV who did a thorough background check on them before taking them in.

"We were together in the gym-I observed their lifesty.ea, how they care for their bodies and that was when I came to learn that they take GNC products, particuarty the high protein kinds. They really are GNC patrons long before we took them in," JV says.

JV says the move to tap the two athletes aims to show the Floping youth that "by keeping a good diet, taking in food supplements and exercising regularly, you are on your way to your goals."

"Some people used to think that food supplements are only for body but ders. We are now trying to tell them, they are for everybody."

Peek and Belasco he p GNC in teract with the market. "They answer e-mails, they visit the outlets in the mails to meet and talk to our chents."

The information the local franchisee share with the Filipino market are those coming straight from GNC Live Wei, of the US, backed up by clinical studies and researches.

"We do not make any claims." What you see in our labels are what you'l get. We are neither a food store nor a drug store. We are the purveyor of a third classification, which is food supplement. We just guide the buyers on what they might need depending on their desired outcome," says

The Borromeos are very particular on the quality of their products. They keep fresh anventory at the time. "We don't sed products whose expiry date is less than nine months from date of sale. We keep an inventory leve, good for only one month to make sure that our stocks are new."

"We do not make any claim. What you see in the labels is what you get and we make sure th our customers will get only the;

Builder of half of Makati learned from a farm

Roxas and Gil Puyat Avenue.

In the next 50 years, DMCl put up almost half of the buildings in the Makati central business districk and its biggest project was the construction of the palace of the Sultan of Brunet

I The fact that the buildings still stand today and are in good structura, condition are proof enough that DMCI did a good job, he says.

Ht was a long and fruitful career for DMCI and Consump, who once served as Secretary of Public Works and Highways under the inte President Ferdinand Marcos, and named Management Man of the Year by the Management Association of the Philippines.

District Constitution in

-Consunji says he and his comgany became what they are today because he learned from the best teachers.

*IFrom his parents, his aunt and his uncles, he learned about putting in an honest day's work, loying work with one's own hands even if it means getting dirt under his fingernails.

Dean Vidal A. Tan of the UP College of Engineering, on the other hand, was a tough and strict hydraulies and mechanics



AERIAL view of Maketi with dots, representing DMCI's buildings.

teacher who challenged him and his classingres to learn more than just the science of engineering.

Tan taught him about using his knowledge to help others, saying that being the best UP graduate of engineering meant nothing if his work did not do anything to improve the liver of fellow Fil-

Another influential figure was his structura, engineering teach-

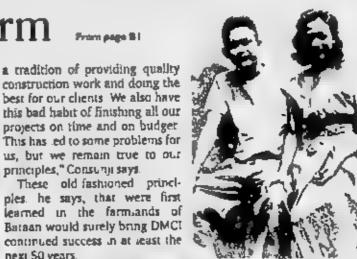
him the basic principles of engineering that would serve him well in his career in construction. They ended up working together on many of DMCl's projects.

"From my teachers and actual work I learned how to look beyond the basics and look for ways to improve the way things are done. I also think of ways to bring down the cost through a concept

er, Alfredo Juinio, who instilled in called value engineering. I guess we were the first to think of it and it he ped us bring down our cost and win the bids for big projects," Consumi says

He says he hopes DMCI would continue to live by these values as he transfers the reins of the company to his children, led by eldest son Isidro who is also a civil englncering graduate of UP

"I would say that we have built



Fredy, his wife of over 50



THE CONSUNII



CONSUNII receives a honorary degree from UP.



CONSUNII takes his eath as DPWH Secretary



DAVID with his grade school classmates

Sunday BIZ

hotel agents earn more

TO ENHANCE revenue generation opportunities for travel intermediaties, Galileo International, a leading global distribution services (GDS) company and part of Cendant Corp.'s Travel Distribution Services Division (TDS), is launching a new, no-cost online hotel booking site, Galileo HotelGlub. Aimed initially at Galileo agents in Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan, China, Australia and New Zealand, it will provide access to rates for over 9,500 hotels in 47 countries at discounted prices.

While various online hotel booking exists, aimed predominately at consumers, Galileo HotelClub is targeted specifically at the travel agent community. Many agents are rejuctant to book hotels online for their customers because there is no control over commission rates and there can be delays in receiving commissions.

Mark Rizzuto, managing director of Galileo Asia says, "HotelClub is the outright winner in the online hotel booking world We are desighted to offer our customers the benefits of this superior content integrated

into the efficiency of Asia's fastest growing

A key feature of the new site will be the ability for travel agents to have full control over the revenue they earn by enabling them to set the commission rate themselves, while ensuring they receive payment for all hotel bookings in a timely manner.

This will allow our customers to generare additional revenue on their hotel bookings while remaining competitive, as well as removing the burden of chasing each hotel for payment. Rizzuto explains, "In the ever competitive travel industry. this is an exceptional feature of Gableo HotelClub. No other system allows agents the flexibility of setting commissions on an overall or case by case basis. And importantly, it allows the hotel booking to be pulled into one consolidated itinerary, which makes management of the booking

Gallieo HotelClub is currently available in seven languages and can be accessed by visiting www.gallleo.com/hotelclub

Online booking site helps Mall owners are tenants, too

THE ROBINSONS chair of mails is one of the bigger landlord of retailers in the country.

But as they built more malls throughout the country, the group also became tenants in malls not owned by the group.

The Robinsons Store (RDS) and Handyman Do it Best Home Center (Handyman) recently opened adjoining stores at the Festival Supermall in Alabang.

This is the seventh RDS not in a a Robinsons mall.

Robina Gokongwel Pe stated this strategy is simply to side the reach of RDS.

Six others are located at three Waltermarts. one in Tutuban Center and two in Star Malls.

The new one combines its two concepts. The entrance from RDS' Home Lines at the 3rd Level ends to Handyman.

The layout makes it easy for our customers to navigate between the two stores. It is very customer-friendly," says RDS general manager Graham Coates. Because of this synergy, they are confident of a promising customer and sales traffic.

Officers of RDS, Handyman and Festival Supermall were present during the opening party Speaking on behalf of the mall, Josephine Yap, executive vice president, said that "Festival Supermall is now complete with the entry of RDS and Handyman." Robina Gokongwei-Pe, SVP and group general manager of RDS thanked the Pestival Superma.I's management, concessionaires and suppliers for their continuing support.

Seen during the opening bash were Handyman's Willy Co, Jarvis Chua of Panama Plastic Products Inc., Eric Lim (Everything Retail Industrial Commercia. Corp.), Jaime Go of Cof-



(Do It Best Consultant), Authende American Apparel's Wilfred Sy, EGreal Philippines' David Ennes, Design Garment's Dina Siy, BonBon Merchandise Sales' Lydia Secosana, Tri-Union International's Antonio How, Town

ta Moulding Corp. and Bob Plank and Country's Mohan Dadlam, Mark Mason, the International Director of Zebra Designs UK and Graham Coates, RDS' general manager; Festival Mall's senior marketing manager, Marivic Arugay and marketing communication manager Cynthia Esteban.

Credit card with '4-gives' payment scheme launched

EQUITABLE CardNetowtk Inc., the largest and access to the brand of Equitable and JCB. credit card firm, with JCB International recently launched the Equitable EasyPay JCB compared to other local cards, especially with Credit Card, a credit card with a unique "4gives" payment scheme designed for the

middle-income market.

Equitable The JCPB EasyPay Credit Card combines the affordability and payment flexibility of loca. cards and the recogmuon of international card networks. It offers an easier membership requirement of P5,000 minimum monthly salary and

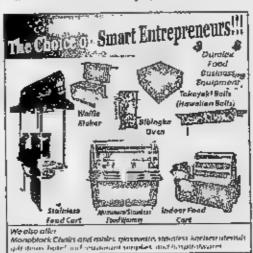
comes with an assurance of customer service collar workers to mid-level executives.

EasyPay provides a significant advantages

payment convenience. The cards is widely accepted in numerous accredited establishments nationwide to give members greater spending

options. The Equitable JCB EasyPay Credit Card Is aimed at assisting its target

market consisting of middle-income consumers, ranging from students, blue



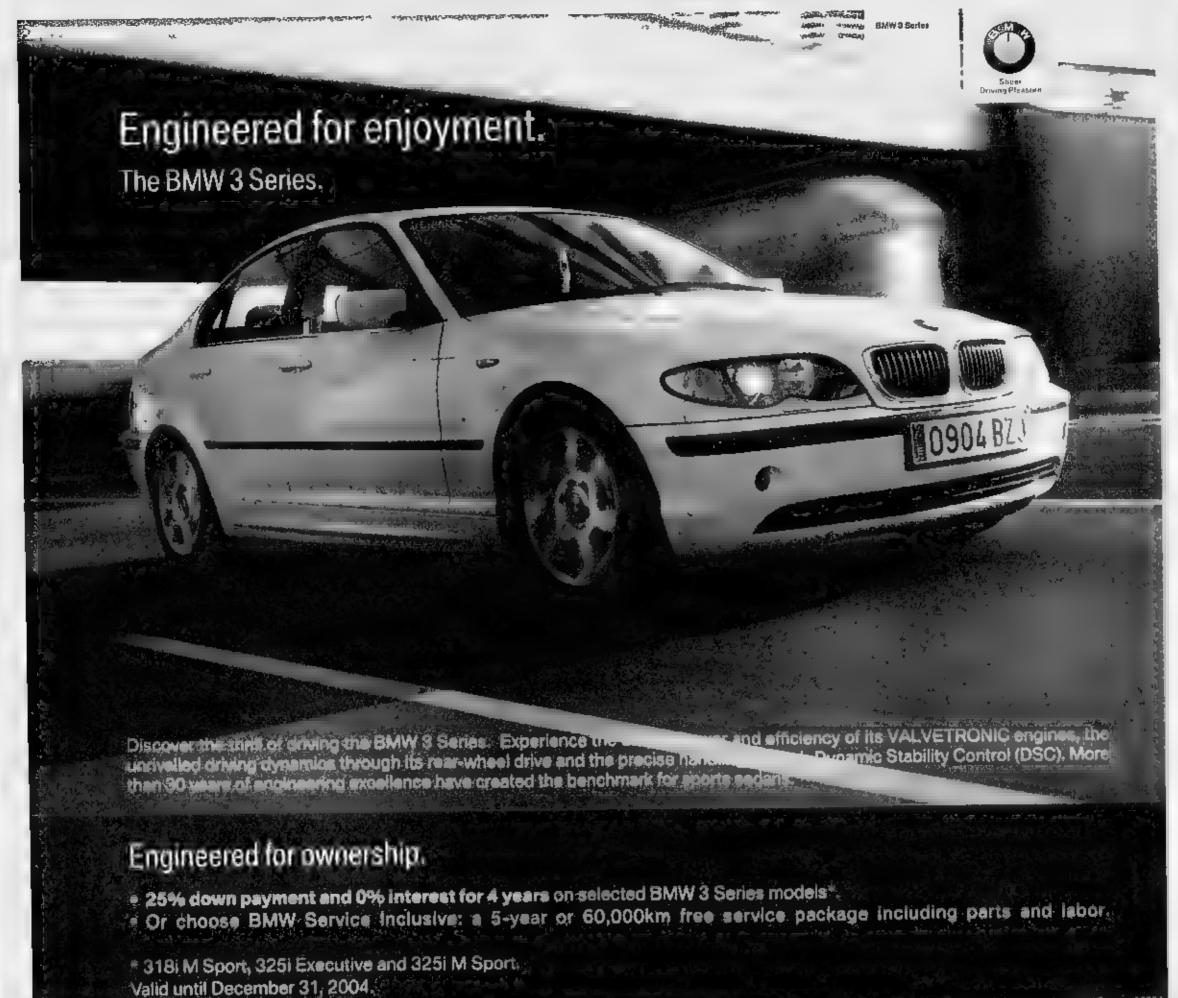
DURALEX Commercial Address: Pasilio A 107 853 Talora St. Biognalo M mile Telephone No.: 350 760 1205



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	\$1,000 to 9,999	\$10,000 to 49,999	\$50,000 to 99,999	\$100,000 to 1,0 million
1 month	2.500%	2.750%	3.000%	3.000%
2 months	2.750%	3.000%	3.250%	3.250%
3 months	3.000%	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%
6 months	3.250%	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%
12 months	3.250%	3.500%	3.500%	3.500%

Quoted raise are for individual accounts only and are subject to change without prior notice. Raise are on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax.

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People, Events Products

Help typhoon victims through Globe's Txt2Donate

TRE RECENT spell of super ty- Mobile subscribers to make contribuphoons has brought about massive destruction and desolation to a country preparing to celebrate the joyous holiday season. In the spirit of goodwill and solidarity, Globe overwhelming support from Globe Handyphone has heeded Philippine National Red Cross chair and Sen. Richard Gordon's plea to support the PNRC donation drive for the victims of typhoons Winnie and Yoyong by accepting donations via text message or G-Cash.

Globe Txt2Dunate enables Globe Prepaid and Plan, as well as Touch subscribers.

tries of the Philippines (CFIP) has be-

gun its design and product development program that will upgrade the

manufacturing capabilities of loca.

furniture makers and enable them to

meet the specific requirements of the

For this month, the CFIP pro-

gram starts with Design Trends and

Color Forecast Seminar on Dec. 6

Pampanga, and Design Consultan-

cy on Dec. 13 to 17 in both venues,

where Concept Generation, Final-

ization and Prototype Develop-

ment will be conducted on Jan. 6 to

global market.

tions in denominations of P5, P25, PSO, or P100 to the Red Cross typhoon find, Impated Priday Dec. 3, the mobile fund drive has generated and Touch Mobile aubscribers. Interested parties may continue to make donations sending "RED<space><smount>" to 2899. The pledged amount plus a P1 transaction fee will be deducted from the donor's prepaid balance, or charged to the next biling statement for Plan

Earlier, orientation seminars and

Being implemented in collabora-

materials development projects were

held in Mamin, Pampanga and Bollo.

tion with the Product Development

and Design Center of the Philippines

and the Private Enterprise Accelerat-

ing Resource Linkage Project II, the

CFIP program specifically caters to

national Furniture Show (PIFS)

2005, which will be held at the World

Trade Center Metro Manila and the

Philippine Trade Training Center

Product development program

on for RP furniture makers

THE CHAMBER of Furniture Indas- Feb. 17 and a product launch on

and 7 in Manila, and Dec. 8 and 9 in the exhibitors of the Phil ppine Inter-

Subscribers may also make G-Cash contributions in any amount. They only "<amount><space><MPIN>" 28829178REDCRS 28829178733277. All proceeds will

go to Red Cross relief programs for typhoon victims in the towns of Infants, Real, and General Nakar in Quezon.

"By all accounts, the outpouring of support is unprecendented," said Gordon, upon learning of the texters' swift response. "It is a testament to goodness steelf and the generosity of the Globe community."

Expected to swamp the PIFS 2005

and Northern Ireland, France, Aus-

Arabia, and Thailand, among others

2834, 632-9007, fax 631-2977, or e-



MISSION IN MUSLIM COMMUNITY

The Public Affaira Service (AFPRescom) recently conducted a medical, dental, optical, deworming and milk-feeding operation, including distribution of electric toothbrushes and nutritions, products, in the Muslim community of

North Fairview Quezon City. A total of 1540 patients benefited from the mission. Shown are Cot, Andrew Nocon, PAF Deputy Commander of PAS and Col. Jesus G. Cabarrus, PAF Commander of PAS with patients.



will visit your schools. Be the first 100 students to sign up when Noypi visits your school and get a free Noyoi trial card. This card will entitle you for an hour of Noypl experience to chat, surf and

School Your has been to Aleneo. St. Paul Quezon City, San Beda, UE, PSBA, Lyceum, Roosevelt Cainta and La Salle Greenhills, San Sebastian, PCU, La Consolación, UPD, Aquinas and SJC, If you want Noypi to visit your school call 687-

NOYPI SUPPORTS THE FILIPING YOUTH

The tatest craze in prepaid internet card. Noypl, do anything in the Web-all for Iree. The Noypi

FDA approves use of orlistat among adolescents

medication for the management of obesity in adults can now be-used by obese adolescents.

The US Rood and Drug Administration have approved labeling for use of orlistat in the management of obese adolescents ages 12 to 16 years. This is the first approval of its kind for a prescription we ght-loss treatment.

The approva, followed the results of a clinical study, which showed pationts, aged 12 to 16 years, taking orfistat along with reduced-calorie diet-Bad a significantly reduced BMI compared with panents having the same diet and placebo. A five-percent reduction in body mass index (BMI) was achieved by 27 percent of patienus taking orlistat plus diet compared with 16 percent of patients who do not take the drug

This is very good news for adolesceffee struggling with overweight and obesity" says Or. Mare Jacobson, director of the Center for Atheroscierorevention in the division of ado-

THE ONLY prescription weight-loss lescent medicine at Scheider Children's Hospital of North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System.

Overweight and obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, Currently, about 15 percent of adolescents in the United States are obese and 30 percent are overweight. A study done by the Philippine Heart Association and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute reported that in the Philippines, incidence of manufaction in children has decreased, while overweight cares increased between 1998 and

Aside from the genetic factor, poor dietary habits and physical mactivity have been clearly identified as causes to the burgeoning problem of over- not only helps patients lose weight, weight and obesity.

Studies have shown that children and teenagers who are obese are at higher risk of developing cardiovascular illnesses in their 30s and 40s. Associated cardiovascular risk factors of obesity are hypertension, dyslipi-

demia and type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Jacobson advises that parents consult physician once they suspect that their child may be overweight or obese, "Combining diet, exercise and changes in lifestyle habits with medication can help seriously overweight adolescents manage their weight and reduce their risk of serious health problems."

With the approval of the use of orlistar on obese adolescents can be a great help for teen-agers who have to contend with their weight problem. Orlistat is the only weight-loss medication that works locally in the gut to prevent dietary fat absorption by around 30 percent.

Orlistat is an effective therapy that but also heips maintain their weight loss. Since it was first marketed in 1998, there have been more than 16.7 million patient treatments with Xenical workiwide. Xenical is approved for weight management in over 140 countries around the world.



MAGSAYSAY VISITS POMDA BOOTH

During the recently concluded Yotal Office Products and Sarvices Show (The TOPS Show)-2nd international Office iT, Communication Facilities, Furniture. Equipment, Products, Accessories and Services Exhibition held at the World Trade Center Metro Maniin, Sen. Ramon Magsaysey Jr visited the tooth of the prestigious Philippine Office Machine Distributors Association (Portida), the co-organizer of the event. Shown during the awarding ceremony were. from left, Mariano Ang, director of Pomda and president of Microdata, Marieta Santos Mesa, Pomda vice president and VP of Business Machines Corp.

Magsaysay and Miguel Ripoli, president of Pornda and president of City Office Machines. For more Information about the TOPS Show '05 and Corporate Gifts Expo '05 (June 2 to 5) call Jiza Mara, project director of Global-Link Marketing and Management Services, the organizar of the exhibit and conference, at 750-8588, 887-1304, fax 750-8585, or emax liza@globallinkph.com. The TOPS Show attracted 171 exhibitors representing products and services from 15 countries and occupied 5,500 agm of exhibition space. There were 8,351 trade buyers that graced the event in four days



THE-MEMBERS of the Mapa High School Class '51 will hold thei? Christmas party today, Oec. 5. With a "Pista sa Nayon" motif The party will be held at the Barrio Flesta restaurant in Edsa Greenblits, San Juan. Starting with a Holy Mass at 5 p.m., the pagity is expected to last until midnight. Children of MHS Class "57 members who read or hear this announcement are requestedity remind their parents about their annual get-together MMS Cigse '51 was the last class under the principalship of the American "Thomasite" teacher Saran M. England. For other details, call Oxirino Morales at 716-8030 or Evangeline Navarre at 724-

Skills that earn a living

INSTEAD of looking for a job, why not learn a skill and be at your own? You can be a successful entrepreneur, if already emplayed, practicing the skill means extra income. A series of semmars on different skills is being conducted by ALPs Training Center The seminars are held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rotary Center, Roces Avenue comer Mother ignacia Street, Guezon City. Today, Dec. 5, the seminar is on Giftwrapping with Style; Mold Making (any Item for molding using silicon rubber); and Shatsu Massage. On Saturday, Dec. 11 Meat Processing (pork ham, tocino, and others). Candle Making (traditional candles and others): Facult Treatment, and Native Kakanin (puto, kutsin-(a, a(c). For these and other upcoming seminars, can ALPs at 900-7878, 0919-8237159 or 0910-3745519.

'Oedipus, the King'

WINGS Entertainment, in cooperation with Tribo, presents Sophocles' "Bedipus, the King", with performances scheduled on Dec. 6, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Paco Catholic Auditorium, Paco, Manila, "Oedipus, the King", is one of the most enduring classical Greek tragecies that take about the tale of a young hebleman, who because of a wicked prophery, is set to live a doorned life. Wings Entertainment is a production and talent house headed by Francis Villacorta. The production house aims to bring the public entertaining and educational presentations, For ticket inquiries, call 524-6454 or 0916-9237513 and look for Frençie Villacorta.

Fiesta World Mall at 7

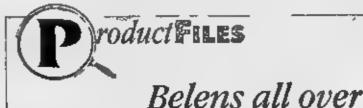
FIESTA World Mail-Lips celebrates its 7th anniversary with a big bang on Dec. 5. Despite the current economic problem, Fiesta Mali continues its operation in one of the most progressive cities in the south and has fined up several big events for the anniversary celebration. Plesta World Mai, also holds the formal raunch of the Flesta Serbisyong Bayan Center where several local government agencies will be housed. The highlight of the big celebration today is a kiddle fashion show, mini-concart of Flesta Mall Talents and susprise celebrity quests. Flesta World Mail will be giving free eye checkups and reading eyeglasses to all Lipenos as a sign of gratitude for their endiess support. Lipt. City Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto and the Flesta World Maji official mascot Bibo Batangueno will grace the momentous event

'May Day Eve', 'Super Manok'

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation (GTF) caps its 27th season with a twin-tuil presentation of "May Day Eve" and "Super Manok", two new theater productions adapted from short stories written by National Artists for Literatura Nick Jouquin and Alejandro Roces, Parformances are scheduled from Dec. 3 to 5 at the Saint Cecilia's Half of the Saint Scholastica's College, Manils, Dec. 10 and 11 at the AFC Cinema Theatrs, Last Pines. City; Jan. 14 to 16, Feb. 11 to 13, at the AFP Theater in Quezon City. Shows are every 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For lickets, bookings and reservations, call the GVF marketing office at 899-5745 and

DLS-CSB Akımıni Advent Recollection

DE LA Saite-Cotiege of Saint Bentide with be holding the first Advent recollection for Benildean alumn), on Dec. 5, Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Contemplation Room of the Talt Campus. Following Henry Nouwen's "Life of the Beloved: Spiritue: Living in a Secular World," the recollection will look into the Season of Advent as a time to reaffirm our Belovedness, to renew the spirit of Christ coming into our fives, and to renew the way we do and say things. The recollection will be focultated by Br. Kenneth. Martinez FSC and will be free of charge, Lunch will also be provided. Slots however, are limited, interested Beniklean alumni. can call Kato Samuemo at 526-7441 to 47



THE FRIENDS of Intramures Foundation Inc sponsors a special display of "Belens from Around the World" in San Agustin Museum, More than 600 art pieces from various places such as Africa, Spain, China, Mexico, Italy and the Philippines featuring the Christmas theme will be displayed.

These Belens are a part of the two different collections of Gigi Carlos and Robert Lane that have been assembled over the past 50 years. Featured belens are made of different materials such as terra cotta, metal, porcelain, resin, paper mache and wood and artistic interpretations of the

manger scene and the Holy Family being vished by shepherds and the three kings.

The exhibition is scheduled to run from Dec. 5 to 31 at the 2nd floor of the San Agustin Museum, Gen. Luna corner Real

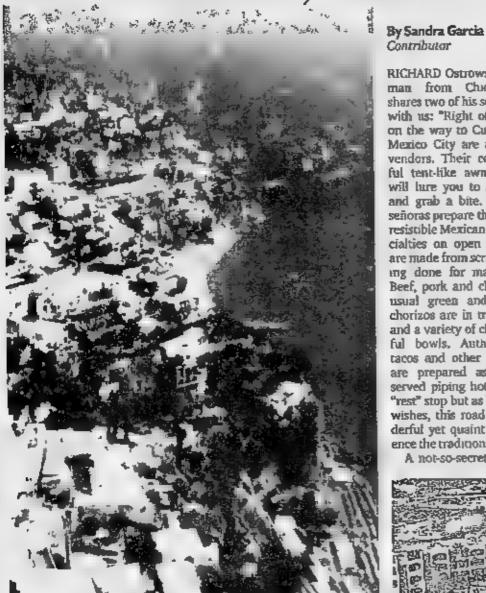


Street, Intramuros, Manila, Museum hours are from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. everyday including Sundays and holidays. For inquiries, call 527-4060/51 or 526-6793/94.

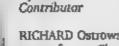
Sunday BIZ

Secret addresses: Las Mañanitas

in Cuernavaca, Amalfi Coast



HELICOPTER view of the Amalfi Coast or Mexico



RICHARD Ostrowsky, a businesswith us: "Right off the highway restaurant in Cuernavaca, Mexion the way to Cuemavaca from co. Cuemavaca is a mountain city Mexico City are a row of food south of Mexico City. Since the

vendors. Their colorful tent-like awnings will lure you to stop and grab a bite. The señoras prepare the irresistible Mexican spe-

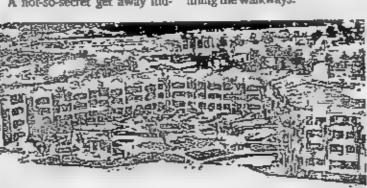
cialties on open grills. Tortillas blocks away from downtown are made from scratch (as it is being done for many centuries). Beef, pork and chorizo and unusual green and red Mexican chorizos are in trays, vegetables and a variety of cheeses in colorful bowls, Authentic Mexican tacos and other popular dishes are prepared as ordered and served piping hot. Faster than a "rest" stop but as leisurely as one wishes, this road stop is a wonderful yet quaint way to experience the traditional local flavor.

A not-so-secret get away hid-

man from Chicago, Elimois, den behind stone walls is Las shares two of his secret addresses Mañanitas, a hotel garden and

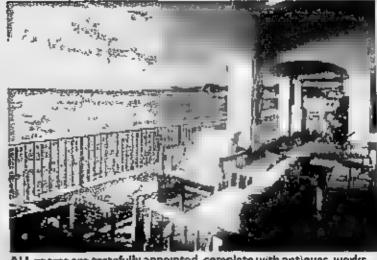
> Aztecs, it has been called The City Of Eternal Spring. Pounded in 1955 by the Krause family, the Hotel is located just seven

Cuernavaca. The hotel's 20 elegantly-decorated suites (colomal-themed décor) with individual panos. One can enjoy a cocktail or dine in the lush gardens where exotic birds wander freely. Two gardens complete with fountains and a variety of plants and flowers charm the senses. A zeninspired pond and a collection of Francisco Zuñiga sculptures make a great centerpiece for the lush gardens. An evening setting is more romantic with candles lining the walkways."



LAS MANANITAS Hotel in Chernavaca, Mexico, the City of Eternal

BUY A STYLISH PIXMA PRINTER.



ALL rooms are tastefully appointed, complete with antiques, works of art and a breathtaking view to match.

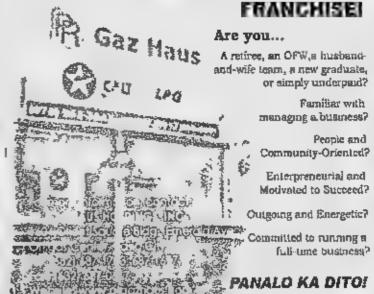
The view at Amalfi Coast in Italy is just incredible, just like the Prench Riviera but more sultry because it is Latin. I love hanging out in their sun-baked beaches with my glass of wine." -Donnie C. Ramurez, PR Practitioner, Journalist and Frequent Business Traveler

Business Travel Tip: Our feet tend to swell on airplanes so we recommend wearing a comfortable pair of shoes, sneakers or ; moccasins, that have the capabili-, ty to expand.

For feedback, please e-mail " sdg1402@yahoo.com

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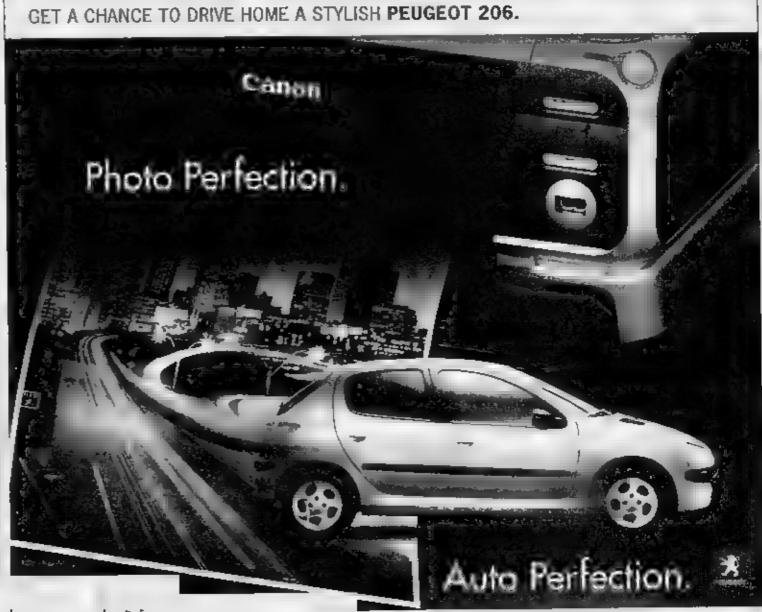


All rooms at Las Mananitas have either a view of the pool or a private



GUESTS can enjoy a cocktail or dine al fresco in the lush gardens where exotic birds wander freely

CONTA THE PARTY





NAME ADDRESS

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Monthly Draws. October 17 and Nov. 17, 2004 Grand Draw: Dec. 14, 2004 Draw Dates:

Monthly Draw: October 22 and Nov. 22, 2004

Grand Draw; Doc. 21, 2004 See posters and principle for details. Per DT, Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

Drop in drop bosts incited at Aysh and Robinson's climina inbites, and all LBC and Histopia branches. You dray also mail entries to Guyito Wild Hunt PDI Bidg., corner Yague and Makardo Str., Chino Rocas Ave., Makari Cery

Promo Mechanics: Indicate the second security of the posterpoints would be of Control Ferror Performance of the Control Second Sec

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Their Parisches Anto Parisches " Boille Promo Coron Marketing Philippines, Inc. 2F Marien Piace Side, 2153 Don Clone Room Ave. on V.A. Balles St., Mohos City.

- Promo partied is from October 15 to Occorder 15, 2004. Decision of dropping the notice coupons a on December 15, 2004 or 9 029A. Mailed antives should be received not later there December 22, 2004.
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Where

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best.

Prome Period: Sept. 27- Dec. 14, 2001 Deadline of Entries

Editor Aries Espinosa

Go easy on that holiday feast

season is a time for thanksgiving-a reason to celebrate, and an excuse to eat a lot. Indeed, the hobday season is a weight watcher's nightmare. Many of the year. If this persists for a long drome time, it could result in overweight or worse, obesity.

Obesity is defined as an excessively high amount of body fat or adipose ussue in relation to lean body mass. Body mass index (BMI) is used to find out if a person is obese or not. For Asians, a BMI of above 25 is already considered obese. Obesity, together with hypertension, dyslipidemia, and glucose intolerance or the inability of the body's cells to metabolize glucose, is a factor in the condition known as metabolic syndrome

People with metabolic syndrome have a three-fold risk of developing (and dying from) heart disease and

FOR MANY Filipinos, the Christmas stroke. Recent data from the National Health Survey showed that 14 to 20 percent of Filipmos have metabolic syndrome. Another study, this time by the Food and Nutrition Research Inpeople tend to overeat, and in the stitute, showed that one in every five process gain weight during this time. Filipino adults has metabolic syn-

Obesity has been identified as a major culprit in the rise in the number of people with this syndrome. "Once clinical obesity is developed, this could lead to serious complications, which may be difficult to reverse," said Dr. Ricardo Fernando of the Institute for the Study of Diabetes Foun-

Studies have shown that treating metabolic syndrome can significantly prevent the onset of heart attack or stroke. A major component of the treatment is lifestyle change, which means a healthy diet (low fat, low salt) and regular exercise.

However, there are cases that may

require pharmacological interven bon.

One of the drugs prescribed to treat dyshpidemia in metabolic syndrome is fenofibrate. This drug increases low levels of high density lipoprotein (HDL), also known as good cholesterol, and triglycerides, and decreases the levels of low density lipoprotein (LDL), or the bad chotesterol.

Fenofibrate helps halt the progression of atherosclerosis, a condition characterized by the hardening and narrowing of blood vessels, which could lead to heart attack or stroke.

Filipino-owned Patriot Pharmaceutical Corp. will soon launch its own brand of fenofibrate 200mg. This, the company hopes, will increase the Filipinos' chance of winning the battle against the dreaded metabolic syn-

Fenofibrate is a drug that should only be taken upon a doctor's advice.



BANTAY BATA COIN BANKS AT TOTAL SERVICE STATION

Living up to its commitment as a socially responsible business enterprise, Total Philippines Corp. is now displaying coin banks in its 67 service stations in different parts of the country to accept donations for the Bantay Bata Foundation of ABS-CBN Bantav Bata 183 is a media-based intervention program that provides a wholistic approach In the rescue and rehabilitation of abused children. Shown are (from left) Mike Serrano, Total retail business councilor, receiving the Santay Bata coin banks from Elvira Yulo, head of the Bantay Bata 163 Colnbank Team

Davao spa offers best in health, recreational facilities

DAVAO City is constantly in bloom and rich manager of Davao's Spa. "If you don't want to with fruit, a consequence of the clear, typhoon-free weather. For the adventurous guests can use the circular jogging area, contourist, Davao is home to the country's highest mountain Mr. Apo, the Marilog District, which flourishes with Mother Earth's wonders like caves, waterfalls and rivers and a lot more natural resources ready to be discovered. The shopper also belongs to this Southern shopping capital. Local beauties include jars, batik garments, brass and ethnic products. Despite all the activities one can relish in, relaxation is not impossible.

Holiday Spa offers the best in health and recreational facilities. From Monday to Saturday, guests and health club members can take advantage of six aerobics classes held at the Spa's aerobics studio, while two badminton courts located inside the vicinity of the Spa provide a venue for a more intense workout. Certified gym instructors headed by health guru Tina Aboitiz Juan are on hand at the fitness center to assist guests. A complete line of gym equipment is also avaitable here.

What is unique in here is that everything is under one roof," says Mae Bangayan, general

use the treadmill to warm up your body, structed purposely for loggers before lifting weights," added Gene Bangayan, Spa owner.

The Holiday Spe is not only about physical fitness. It also focuses on total wellness by making available to its visitors and members the following facilities and services: massage for aching muscles, outdoor swimming pool for a lighter workout, Jacuzzi and sauna room to pamper and rear both mind and body, a cozy salon and a foot massage and reflexology department. If your are starving for healthy food, Holiday Spa Coffee Shoppe offers the best Davao food prepared by Pady Lascano, one of Davao's best food consul-

On the other side of the wing, you'll see a mini-boxing arena. "It's really invigorating here after spending your relaxing day here at Holiday Spa", says Mae.

Davao Holiday Spa, a brainchild of Buboy Bangayan, is located at F. Torres Street, Davao City. For more inquiries, call 082-2255577 or

Celebration of ever-growing 'Blogging Barkada'

THOUSANDS of CubeBiog registered mem- .egames.epidt.net or just by texting Mblog On bers has created a "blogging" frenzy since the and sending it to 483 for Smart and Talk& Text launching of CubeBlog, the coolest onine hang-out for the barkada developed by Cube

CabeBlog's uniqueness has brought blogging to a higher level by bringing in together a convergence of three different mediums that one can use to blog: the mobile phone, landline and relevision. Through its "mobiogging" feature, members can post their "blogs" or journals, send graphics and photos, get message alerts, and do other cool stuff with their account using their mobile phones. A feature called CubeTLK also allows members to record voice messages and post comments using the PLDT's premium phone service hotline 1908-CubeTLK (1908-2823855). All CubeBlog members are assigned a CubeTLX ID and PIN, which they can use in accessing their CubeTLK voice mailbox. Its TV component will enable members to chat via TV or send blogs via CuberTV (to be launched

The plus factor of additional features like these attracts scores of new CubeBlog users by downloading a free handset application by logging on to wapsite http://mobi-

or 2219 for Globe & Touch Mobile.

While the idea of the blog site is to provide a fun way to keep in touch with friends and make new ones virtually, CubeBlog takes it a step further by hosting events and parties to allow its registered users to actually meet. The CubeBiog EB (Eye Ball) Party, which took place at Basement, Eastwood City, Libis Dec. was a chance for the entire CubeBiog barkada to see each other and have lively conversations face to face. Everyone who registered or are members of CubeBlog attended the party; even non-members joined the fun by showing up in party gear and registering online inside the party's premises.

Computer and mobile phone terminals was also set-up so guests can blog and interact in real life and online all at the same time.

Bloggers grooved to the tunes of Stonefree, Wunjo, and Shane Trace - a new and upcoming R&B artist from the United States, and took to the dance floor with new friends to the beats spun by the night's DJ/Spinner.

Can't get enough of the fun awalong you and your barkada? Log on now and register to www.cubeblog.com.

Siemens Christmas Consumer Promo

MCKENZIE-CADBURY, SM'S TRADE PARTNER OF THE YEAR

McKenzle Distribution Company Inc's aggressive marketing initiatives have paid off. This year, the company, together with Cad-

bury Philippines, was chosen by Super Value Inc (SVI) as the

Most Outstanding Trade Partner of the Year (Motoy) 2004-Na-

tional Category. McKenzie and the Cadbury Philippines sales

team bested 6 other nominees vying for the award. The Motpy

business relationships with SVI, the Supermarket arm of the SM

Group of Companies, Every year, SVI gives out the award to the

trade partner with the most outstanding sales performance and

who has manifested best in class customer management solu-

tions and initiatives. Those who vie for the gold are well-known

award recognizes trade partners who have established good

IT'S gift-giving season once more! Stemens, in the spirit of the holiday season, is giving away free accessories to anyone who avails himself of any of Siemens' latest mobile phones this Christmas Season.

Anyone who purchases any of the Siemens' Generation 65 mobile phones from accredited dealers will get a free Siemens Purestyle Head-

set or Siemens Car Charger Plus. thorized Siemens outlets such as Buyers are free to choose which one of the two accessories they would like to avail themselves of.

The premium item can be claimed instantly upon purchase of any of the following: Siemens C65, CX65, M65, S65 and \$1.65 mobile phones.

This promo is available at any au- sa. Promo ends Dec. 31.

Semicon, MemoXpress, Wireless Connection, and ADI Telecom, among others, and at the new Siemens Mobile Concept Shop at the Digital Exchange located at the Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City and the Siemens Mobile Concept Shop inside SM City North Ed-

and globally recognized consumer brands. McKenzle Distribu-

tion Company inc is one of the largest distribution companies in

the Philippines carrying market leaders like Cadbury Philippines,

makers of Carbury Chocolates and Adams confectionery (Halls,

Clorets and Chiclets); Perletti Van Melle (Mentos, Fruitetta and

Happydent) and Biersdorf (Nivea). At the awarding ceremony

Buhinn, key account specialist Ricky Yapit, senior VP for SM

Group of Companies Herbert Sy, national retail charmel manager

for McKenzie Gary Lagunsad, district manager Virgo Villacorta,

national sales manager-Cadauty Philippines Jorel Buhay, and

tury account specialist Simon Samson.

were (from left) district managers Felipe Santos and Jojo

Jitse changes name to PhilNits

nations Philippine Foundation Inc. (Juse Phinppines) has changed its corporate name to the Philippine National IT Standards Foundation (PhilNits) Inc.

Maricor Akol, president of PhilNits, said the change in the corporate hame is intended to correct the misconception that the IT standard exams being implemented are only for the Japanese market.

PhilNits is a non-stock, non-profit, hon-government organization that is implementing an internationally receguized certification program from the Japan Information Technology Engineers Examination Center (Jitec) of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Meti) of Japan without nec-

THE JAPANESE IT Standard Exami- essarily limiting the use only for the mar, Chinese Taipel and the Philip-Japanese market.

Following a close examination and evaluation of the Jitse standard by the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DIT) and the National Computer Center, it was found that the Jitse standard is equivalent to the European and American standard on the fundamentals of IT.

Jitse is identified with the fundamental exam (FE) from the Jitec.

Jitse exams measure the competency of an individual on the fundamentals of IT based on standards adopted by Jitec and recognized by India, China, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myan-

BPS has approved the recognition of the Juse standard as a Philippine national standard with product number PNS 2030:2003

The fundamental FF exams or popularly called Juse exams are given twice a year. For 2005, the scheduled exams are on May 22 and October 9.

The exams will be held in six testing centers nationwide: Philippine Christian University along Taft Avenue in Manila, Ateneo de Zamboanga University in Zamboanga City, Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro City, University of San Carlos in Cebu City, University of Baguio in Baguio City and Paith Academy in Tanauan,

Games, gadgets show to premier hottest MMORPGs, gizmos

Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games (MMORPG) in the Philippines will share the stage for the first time at the Games and Gadgers Show 2005 (G2 Show) being organized by MMOG Philippines and Gold Horizons Interactive Media.

Ar least five MMORPG pubushers, led by Level Up's commercially available Ragnarok Online and Mobius' open beta Mu Online, have already signed up for the G2 Show slated from Jan. 7 to 9 at the SM Megatrade Hall 1 and 2, according to Jamie Prancis Dy, MMOG business development

"It's going to be a feast for Filipino gamers as they get to see the different MMORPGs side by side and also get a preview of new ones that will be hitting the Philippines soon," Dy said.

The G2 Show is MMOG Philippines' Initial venture at bringing together the rapidly growing Pilipino online gaming community as well as providing a platform for game publishers to showcase the latest developments in MMORPGs in the Philippines.

"We're here to reach out to avid Filipino gamers as well as help game publishers further develop the gaming base in the Philippines. The online gaming community in the Philippines is in its infancy and we want to

see it grow," Dy said. Aside from MMORPGs, the G2 Show will www.g2show.com.ph.

COMMERCIAL as well as up-and-coming also feature the latest electronic gadgets and gizmos from different categories including audio, broadband, digital entertainment, digital imaging, embedded technologies, home theater, mobile electronics, relecommunication, video and wireless.

"During the G2 Show, consumers will be able to review, test, and assess a wide assembly of technology products that they have so far only heard in the news. The G2 Show will be different in that sense because it's going to be a showcase for all things new," Dy said.

The G2 Show will also be highlighted by the PC Modding Contest, where individuals and companies jazz up the traditional PC box, as well as the Costume Play (CosPlay) Competition, where avid gamers can dress up as their favorite MMORPG character during the Show.

Capping the G2 Show will be the awarding of The Best Games and Gadgets, or the horrest technology products on the show floor, which will be selected by the droves of people expected to attend the event.

The awards will be chosen by the people who will be attending the G2 Show and will serve as a good Indication of what's going to be the next in-thing among our technology-crazy citizenry," Dy said.

To know more about the Games and 2005, Show Gadgets

Yuletide promo at Bayview Park Hotel

TREAT your family and loved ones for an exciting bollday vacation at Bayview Park Hotel's "Yuletide Special Promo". This is open from Dec. 10 until Jan. 11, 2005.

According to Marle Jean P Cordero, director of sales and marketing, this includes overnight accommodation up to family of four; buffer breakfast for 2; and complimentary shuttle service to Baywalk. Plus, free use of swimming pool and fitness gym and complimentary use of coffee and tea making facilities inside the room are

This promo is priced for only P2,700 net for Superior Room, while it's P2,200 net for the Standard Room. There's an almost 40-percent discount from the regular

For reservations, call 526-1555 locals 1759 or 1757. or e-mail bookings@beyviewparkbotel.com.

Bayview Park Hotel is at 1118 Roxas Boulevard corner UN Avenue, Manila.

CITEM accepting applications for 2005 e-Services exposition

THE CENTER for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) is accepting exhibitor applications for the e-Services Philippines 2005 exhibition and conference. Firms offering outsourced IT and IT-enabled services (ITES) to domestic and foreign clients are swited to participate in the country's largest GES exposition Feb 17 and 18 at the Edea Shangri-La Hotel in Marria, according to organizers, e-Services draws thousands. of visitors each year, and showcases the country's six most

promising iT and ITES sectors: animation, business process outsourcing, contact content, medical transcription, software application development, and engineering and design. Companies interested in participating in e-Services Philippines 2005 can call Citem's IT Services and Electronics Division at 8325044 or 8312251 local 301, fax 8323965 or 8340177, or email itearvices@cilem.com.ph, a log on to www.e-servicesphils.com.

More PEP on page B4



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sale	The Home Develops of the following ac fic Center Bldg, San	quired res	identia	il proj	perties (on De	cember	es shall con 23, THU	nduct a pu RSDAY, 2	blic bi :00 PN	dding 4 at 8tf	for the n FLR.,	200 200 207	BUK 05 LOT BUK 05 LOT BUK 05 LOT	43 A 44 SEC 10 PM NI 1 40 SEC 06 PM NI 1 50 SEC 06 PM NI 1	[-733004006 1 [-732335 1 [-732336 2	10.12 10.12 20.12
	TON OF PROPERTY		PLOOR		WANTE SED		ion of Phor	ERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR ANEA	LOT NE		296 290 290 291	BLK 06 LOT BUK 06 LOT	03 SEC 07 PH I 05 SEC 01 PH II	7-673106-A	10.12 10.12 20.12 19.12
BHL	IGAILAREA BELHONY PARK VILLAGE					139 121	BLK 02 LOT	20 SEC O1 PH II 20 SEC 64 PH II	T-667054	20.12 20.12	30.50 30.50	190,241.00 251,681.57	212 213 214	BLK 06 LOT	OR SEC 02 PH II	T-667514 T-686748	20.12 20.12 20.12
1	Bo. Caypombo Sta Harin Bo BLK 15 LOT 30	T-344580(f/l)	22.00	55.00	255,479.05	122 123 124 126	BLK 02 LOT :	21 SEC 07 PH 25 & 27 SEC 05 PH 25 SEC 01 PH 26 & 28 SEC 07 PH	T-465941	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12	38.50 77.90 34.50 77.00	369,047,98 292,748,06 199,345,26 286,695,38	216 230 267 264	SILK OF LOT	10 SEC 10 PH III	T-733014 T-867264	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
2	CARISSA HOMES NORTH Bu, Ste Crista San Jose Del I BLK 01 "OT 04 PH SC	T-25257P (A);	20.00	86.00	174,102.67	126 127 128	BLK 02 LOT	26 SEC 01 PH 8 27 SEC 01 PH 8 27 SEC 06 PH 9	T-865942 T-865943 T-672410-A	20.12 20.12 29.12	36.50 36.50 36.50	200,151 12 189,345-26 200,015-46	380 301	BLK 06 LOT	T 13 & 15 SEC 06 PH III	T-6735564/64A T-732355	20,12 20.12 20.12
;	CTTYVILLE HONNES Be. Tangkong Marques, Ster (BLK 08LGT 08 BLK 10LGT 08		\$1.50 21.50	35.00 35.00	201,325.96 221,325.96	120 130 131 132 133	BLK C2 LOT BLK C2 LOT BLK C2 LOT BLK C2 LOT	29 4 31 SEC 04 PM 29 SEC 06 PM 6 30 SEC 03 PM 8 30 SEC 05 PM 1 31 SEC 03 PM 1	T-672412-A T-006824 T-671093 T-667067	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12	77.00 38.50 38.50 38.50 38.50	237,048,36 200,335,74 211,681,57 177,331 10 197,901,95	377 320 394 395 398	BLK 05 LOT BLK 06 LOT BLK 06 LOT	T 15 SEC 06 PH W T 16 SEC 04 PH II T 16 SEC 05 PH I T 17 SEC 07 PH I	T-732357 T-867219 T-471235 T-473120-A	80.12 20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
1	MARRICONY HILLS SUBD Bo, Muzzin Son Jose Dol Mos BLK 02 LOT 52 PK1	T 196565(M)	21.00	38.00	197,000.82	136 136 136 137	BLK 02 LOT	32 SEC 03 PH II 34 & 36 SEC 04 PH 35 SEC 02 PH II 36 SEC 03 PH II	T-680526 T-670751/792 T-660654 T-666630	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12	30.50 74.00 30.50 31.50	799,543,41 973,529,54 188,785,74 980,369,16	307 380 330 310	BUK 06 LOT	F19 SEC 05 PH NE F20 SEC 05 PH NE	T-732961 T-732362	20.12 20.12 20.12
7	BLK 12 LOT 48 PK BLK 13 LOT 41 PH BLK 19 LOT 11 PK BLK 12 LOT 16 PH	T-19722CM) T-197277 (M) T-266054(M) T-266059(M)	24.00 24.00 20.00 20.00	36.00 67.00 36.00 35.00	197,000.62 305,512.12 196,563.88 159,341.88	130 130 140	BLK 02 LOT BLK 02 LOT BUK 03 LOT	36 SEC 06 PH (1 43 SEC 06 PH (1) 05 SEC 06 PH (1)	T-572419-A T-732219 T-732230	20.12 20.12 20.12	36.00 36.00	274,581.57 189,129.74 195.671.57	312 313	BLK 06 LOT	T 22 SEC 10 PH III T 23 # 25 SEC Q1 PH II	T-733027	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
10 11 12	BUK 21 LOT 57 PH 1 BUK 23 LOT 30 PH 1 BUK 25 LOT 25 PH	T-197681(M) T-197782(M) T-197970(M) T-198295	24.00 24.00 24.00 24.00	87.00 38.00 38.00 38.00	\$79,039.30 197,090.82 197,090.82 197,090.62	141 142 143	BLK 03 LOT BLK 03 LOT	04 & 05 SEC 06 PH 05 SEC 01 PH 8 05 SEC 04 PH III 05 SEC 01 PH II	T-932715714 T-935951 T-965952 T-965952	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12	84 30 34 50 34 30 54 30	341 52 18 301 662 1 175 777 (c) 360 77 (c)	314 315 316 317	BUX 06 LOT	T 24 SEC 03 PH II. T 24 SEC 07 PH I	T-873127-A	20.12 20.12 20.12
13 14 16	BLK 29 LOT 69 PH I BLK 30 LOT 21 PH I BLK 52 LOT 63 PH I	T-198251(M) T-200107(M)	24.00 24.08	36.00 36.00	310,464.12 187,080.02	145 146 147	BUX 63 LOT BUX 63 LOT	06 SEC 00 PH1 06 SEC 10 PH N 07 \$ 00 SEC 07 PM	T-673503 T-732990 T-672992A/990		30 50 36 39 71 26	190, 725 34 174 060 41 337 914 67	318 319 380 321	BFK 02 10.	T 26 SEC 06 PH N T 28 SEC 06 PH I	T-666980 T-732366 T-672571-A T-672572	20 12 30.12 20.12 20.12
16 17	MELODY PLAINS SUBD Be. Sta Maria Meyenagan St BLK14 LGT 22 BLK25 LGT 12	dacan T-243520(40 T-243557(40)	20.16 20.16	39.60 39.60	180,524.53 179,726.10	146 140 180 151	* BLK 63-EOT	47 & 08 SEC 08 PM 08 & 16 SEC 08 PM 09 SEC 08 PM I 10 SEC 08 PM I			ア 30 ア 30 瀬 5位 瀬 50	型 ANE 25 295 公 特 2010 1 特 210 2 4 60	322 323 324	BLK 06 LO	T30 SEC 05 PH N T31 SEC 05 PH N	T-732372 T-732373 T-667220	20.12 20.12 20.12
16 19 20	BLK 25 LOT 18 BLK 36 LOT 19 BLK 46 LOT 17	T-243952(M) T-244205(M) T-244523(M)	20.16 20.16 20.16	90.00 90.00 20.00	192,524,53 192,524,53 192,524,53	152 153 154	BLK 03 LOT BLK 03 LOT	11 SEC 04 PH II 11 SEC 07 PH II 11 SEC 10 PH III	T-657065 T-672994-A T-732995	20.12 20.12 20.12	30.50 30.50 36.00	217 Z. 65 192,710,52 192,873.08	325 326 327 328	BUX 06 LO	T 32 SEC 05 PH IN T 37 & 39 SEC 07 PH I T 36 & 40 SEC 05 PH IN T 02 & 04 SEC 06 PH I	722380/732382	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
21 22 23 24	BLK 65 LOT 19 & 30 BLK 65 LOT 19 & 30 BLK 95 LOT 09	T-244592(M) T-244919(M)/200 T-245764(M)	20.16 20.16 20.16 20.16	30,80 \$1,40 \$8,80 38,80	173,272.08 296,174.25 192,524.50 153,626.50	155 156 157 138	BUX 03 LOT BUX 03 LOT	12 SEC 06 PH III 12 SEC 10 PH III 15 SEC 01 PH III	T-732230 T-732596 T-667374 T-732898	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12	36.00 36.00 36.50 36.00	196,571,57 194,511,57 192,710,32 190,439,80	229 330	BLK 07 LO	TOSSEC 07 PH III	T-673145-A T-732367 T-673764A/782A	20 12 20.12 20.12
ſ	NK 98 LOT 12 MONTHINIDGE Bo. Ste Cristo SJOM Bulnes	T-245858(M)	ALC: 10	OR. BY		180 180 161	BLK 63 LOT BLK 63 LOT BLK 63 LOT	16 SEC 03 PH II 16 SEC 06 PH III. 16 SEC 07 PH I	T-656850 T-732243 T-672998-A	20.12 20.12 20.12	30 56 36.00 36.50	201,802 11 177,692.05 194,670.41	339 339 334 336	MUK 07 LO	TOB SEC 07 PH I	T-673763-A45-A T-673151A T-733030 T-732301	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
8	NORTHWINDS CITY Bu. Sto Cristo SIDM Buleta	T-36376-IPAG	36.60	46.00	214,294.25	162 163 164 165	BLK 03 LOT	17 SEC 06 PH W 18 SEC 04 PH II 10 SEC 06 PH I 10 & 21 SEC 06 PH	T-732244 T-857392 T-872515-A T-73224677322	20.12 20.12 20.12 NB 20.12	36.00 36.50 36.50 72.00	193,500.03 211,661.57 214,507.80 297,574.30	236 337 338	BLK 97 LO BLK 97 LO BLK 97 LO	T10 SEC 10 PH III T12 SEC 10 PH III T14 SEC 00 PH I	T 733041 T-733043 7-673570-A	20.12 20.12 20.12
36 27	BLK 07 LOT 10 PH 30 BLK 07 LOT 10 PH 30	T-95200P(M) T-972005(M)	25.00 25.00	80.98 79.05	276,119.64 236,456.33	187 187 188	BLK 03 LOT	21 & 23 SEC 01 PM 21 SEC 01 PM & 24 & 26 SEC 10 PM 24 SEC 01 PM II	T-0653967	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12	72.50 38.50 \$1.00 38.58	305,823,35 200,113,75 209,305,31 290,513,41	340 341 341 342	BUK 87 LO	T14 SEC 08 PH1 Y 18 SEC 02 PH1 T 17 SEC 06 PH1 T 17 SEC 08 PH1	T-673788A T-667534 T-672609 T-673573	20 12 20 12 80 12 20 12
77	SARPHENTO HOMES Bo. Muzen SJOH Sulection SLX 22 LOT 37 BLK 28 LOT 75	T-2384579/8) T-4262860/0	25.40 26.40	85.56 40.00	341.075.20 193,764.36	170 171 172	BLK 63 LOT BLK 63 LOT	25 SEC 04 PR II 26 SEC 07 PR I 27 SEC 02 PH II	T-057090 T-673000-A T-056646	20.12 20.12 20.12	39.56 31.56 31.50	207,609,80 191,905,43 211,681,57	344 344 345	BLK 07 LO BLK 07 LO BLK 07 LO	T 18 SEC 04 PH III T 18 SEC 04 PH III T 20 SEC 10 PH III	T-670663 T-693114 T-733051	20.12 20.12 20.12
30 31	BLK 31 LOT 08 BLK 50 LOT 45	T-235788(M) T-20350F(M)	20.72 26.40	40.00 40.00	220,740.84 224,332.80	173 174 175 176	BLK 03 LOT BLK 03 LOT	27 SEC 04 PH II 31 SEC 03 PH II 32 SEC 03 PH II 32 SEC 03 PH III	T-867101 T-866885 T-666886 T-732742	\$0.12 \$0.12 20.12 20.12	38.50 53.00 36.50 36.00	206,339.54 254,891.57 200,425.49 185,819.00	346 347 348 346	BLK 07 LO	FT 21 SEC 06 PH 3 FT 22 SEC 00 PH 1 FT 25 SEC 07 PH 1 FT 25 SEC 09 PH 1	T-672601-A T-673777-A T-673168-A T-673760	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
*	WOODBRIDGE Be. Peblacien Fand Beloma BLX 64 LOT 07	T-\$53000(A)	28.00	42.20	161,306.12	177 178 178	BLK 03 LOT BLK 03 LOT	36 SEC 04 PM II 36 SEC 01 PM III 38 & 40 SEC 03 PM	T-967110 T-732740 II T-6068724074	30.12 20.12 20.12	38.50 36.08 77.00	211.001.57 196.671.57 206,267.50	250 751 752 253	BLK 08 JC	7734 SEC 04 PH III 97 01 & 03 SEC 08 PH II 97 05 & 07 SEC 04 PH II 97 06 SEC 04 PH III	T-732418 T-673579-A/501 T-670910/670012 T-732428	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
GAY	ARHSTRONG VILLAGE					180 181 182 183	BLK 63 LOT BLK 64 LOT	730 & 40 SEC 07 PH 736 SEC 08 PH III 702 & 04 SEC 02 PH 103 & 04 SEC 02 PH	T-732748	20.12 20.12 20.12	30.50 36.00 02.59 77.00	307.795.20 173,332.74 353,436.35 320,915.47	254 255 266	BLK 06 LC	77 06 SEC 06 PH I 97 06 & 16 SEC 06 PH I 97 06 & 10 SEC 07 PH I	T-673584-A T-672633A/631A T-673182A/180A	20.12 20.12 20.12
34 35	Bo. Salawag, Demonstron C BLK 02 LOT 67 BLK 04 LOT 16	T-543428 T-643688	21.00 21.00	36.00 38.00	100,410.13 100,410.13	184 185 186	OLK 04 LOT OLK 04 LOT	FOS A 07 SEC OLPHU FOS A 07 SEC OLPH FOS SEC OS PHILI	T-732765 T-865877/879 T-665879	20.12 20.12 20.12	38.00 77.00 38.50	198,671,57 320,760 96 209,267 40	357 756 359 399	BUK OB LO	97 DILSEC 08 PH 4 07 DB & 11 SEC 01 PH 1 07 11 SEC 06 PH 1 07 11 SEC 07 PH 1	T-672536-A T-555036445 T-672636-A T-673163-A	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
36	BELLEVIEW MEADOWS Be. Bagtas Tarma Cavite BLK 01 JOY 09 SEC 33 BLK 05 JOY 13 SEC 34	T-605186 T-605423	20.16 20.16	39.W 30.00	\$89,382.91 172,434.96	107 108 580 100 101 192	BLK 04 LOT BLK 04 LOT BLK 04 LOT	F 05 SEC 04 PH III F 05 SEC 05 PH III F 05 SEC 10 PH IIII F 07 SEC 04 PH IIII F 07 SEC 04 PH IIIII F 08 & 10 SEC 08 PH	T-667119 T-671152 T-732915 T-666606 T-667121	20, 12 20, 12 20, 12 20, 12 20, 12 5A, 20, 12	36.00 30.50 30.50	997,807,80 187,927,86 185,671,57 211,861,57 197,867,80 317,771,82	361 362 363 364 365	BLK 08 LC BLK 08 LC BLK 08 LC	OT 12 SEC 00 PK OT 12 SEC 06 PK OT 14 SEC 06 PK OT 16 SEC 07 PH OT 16 SEC 03 PH	T-673590-A T-672536-A T-732436 T-673100-A T-679436	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
37	BOLVEDERE Bo. Quintana Tanza Carite Bo. Pasong Kawayan Gen T BLK 01 LOT 03 & 04 SEC 07 PH		A 20.12	77.00	21,331.55	193 194 195	BUK OF LOT	TOUSEC DO PIET TOUSEC OU PIET TOUSEC OF PIET	T-866882 T-673685A T-687123	20.12 20.12 20.12	31.58 31.59	2 1,981 57 191,225 50 206 252 28	386 367 368	BLK OB LC	OT 20 SEC 02 PH I OT 21 SEC 09 PH I	T-667584 T-673602-A T-673604A	20.12 20.2 20.12
35 36 40	BUK OF LOT OF SEC OF PHIS BUK OF LOT OF SEC OF PHIS BUK OF LOT OF SEC OF PHIS	7-886560 3-867000 T-732650	20.12 20.12 20.12	36.50 39.50 36.00	197,516.95 184,367.92 196,571.57	196 197 198 198	BUK DI LOT	17 09 SEC 10 24 50 17 10 SEC 36 PH II 17 11 SEC 00 24 50 17 11 SEC 10 27 50	T-732919 T-616576 T-732773 T-732921	20,12 20,12 20,12 20,12	40.50 36.00	192,534.71 194,514.22 196,671.57 196,671.57	376 371 371	BEX OF FO	OT 25 SEC 00 PH OT 27 SEC 07 PH OT 26 SEC 00 PH III OT 26 SEC 07 PH	T-673805-A T-673198-A T-732450 T-673200-A	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
41 42 43		F-672911A013 6-666582 T-666762 T-732823	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12	77.00 36.50 36.50 36.05	316,805.25 256,753.63 256,804.91 193,134.86	208 201 202	BLK 04 LOS BLK 04 LOS	T 12 SEC 03 PM III T 12 SEC 04 PM III T 13 SEC 14 PM III	T-662 (26 T-73292)	20.12 20.12 20.12	30.50 30.50	211,001,57 \$00,165,72 196,671,57	373 324 375	BLK 05 JC	OT 29 SEC 07 PH (OT 36 SEC 05 PH (OT 38 4 40 SEC 07 PM	T-673201-A T-673210/212	20 12 20.12 20 12
46 46	BOYER LOT OF BY SEC 15 PH BUY OF COT IN SEUL FROM BUY OF COT IN SEUL FROM BUY OF COT IN SEUL FROM	T-611132/34 T-131525 T-666:64	50 .5 50 .5 50 .5	77 30 36 30 36 50	324 375 12 196 614 57 206 91 62	203 204 305	BL4 04 LC	1 14 SEC 02 PH II 1 14 SE	T-646,673 T-646,688 T-673,038-A	20 12 20 12 20 12 20 12	30 40	210 014 00 7:4 55, 37 2*1 WC 72 191,822-56	174 171 178 171	BLK 09 EC	07 06 4 08 SEC 01 PH A 0T 07 4 09 SEC 01 PH B 0T 07 4 09 SEC 02 PH I 0T 07 4 09 SEC 09 PH I	T-666048/050 T-667577/579	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
40 40 50		11 IT-674042A/043		77.00 74.50 35.50 84.06	330,253.16 317,501.78 100,490.51 301,913.30	208 207 206 708	9LK 04 LO	TISSECTO MIT	T-673G92-A T-66 X T-674-TH-A	20.12 20.13 30.2	57.00 36 56	\$62,038.25 566,541.30 309,54.02	381 361 362	BEK 09 LO	OT ON A 10 SEC 07 PH N OT 11 SEC 01 PH N OT 11 SEC 09 PH I	T-566052 T-673818-A	20.12 20.12 20.12
52 53 54	8LK 01 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH 8 8LK 01 LOT 12 SE , 30 PH	T-665896 T-673629-A T-665900	20.12 20.12 20.2	38.50 38.50 38.50	189,345.26 2 3 334.36 180 4 7 20	210 211 212	BLF SE G		T-732928 T-6666 M * 46:5990 T-72238	20.12 30 12 20 12 20 12	35 50 35 50	796,671,57 21 66 57 212,590 15 17 860 25	361 394 395 395	BLX OF LO	DT 15 SEC OF PH II DT 15 SEC OZ PH I DT 16 SEC OF PH I DT 16 SEC OF PH I	T-886054 T-667585 T-672678A T-673623A	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
10 54 57	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 04 PH III BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 10 PH III	7-467010 T-667010 T-732831 T-#8572	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12	36.50 36.50 36.09 25.00	3" 50 57 206,501,31 171,061,52 181,126,61	213 214 215 114	BLKOILO	7 15 50 140 PH III 1 20 SEC 03 PH III T 20 SEC 04 PH III T 21 SEC 02 PH III	T-666694 T-667136 T-066680	20.12 20.12 20.12	38.50 30.50	210,120.85 211,881.57 810 120.88	387 386 386	BLK 09 JA BLK 09 JA BLK 00 LC	OT 17 SEC 07 PH OT 18 SEC 07 PH OT 19 SEC 08 PH	T-673228-A T-673230A T-670478	20.12 20.12 20.12
91 61	BUCCE OF GREEN, PAIR	7 661905 7 661514 7 661307	10 12 20 12	36 50 36 50 36 50	21 2 4 20 190 5 3 41 21 66 57	217 216 216	BL+04 C	7 22 SE, SEPH B 7 22 SE, SEPH B 13 SE 33 PH B	7-66" 35 7-75:756 7-86:667 7-473045-4	20 12 20 12 10 13	36 00 30 50	201 174 42 185 6 5 08 208 866 38 214 501 80	301	BLK OB LO	OT 19 SEC 04 PM I OT 19 SEC 05 PM I OT 19 SEC 00 PM I OT 20 SEC 04 PM I	T-670964 T-671297 T-673826A 7-670965	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
8844	BLK 0 1, 17 22 & 24 #C 07 PM BLK 01 07 22 & 24 PF 100 PM BLK 01 07 22 & 5 12 PM 0 BLK 01 07 25 Sc. 17 PM	1-6 THE MAGNO T-6 THE MAGNO T-6 (NOTE)		77 30 30 93 30 50 30 50	201 276 72 201 371 25 3 66 57 212 1 62	22	BU SI 3 BL 4 04 0	7 25 - E 7 25 PH 1 7 25 - E 7 25 PH 1 7 25 - E 7 25 PH 1 7 25 - E 7 25 PH 1	7.41-73 7.666-83 7.46-83	30 1 30 1	3" 30 35 10	116 2 32 200 51 13 21160 57	304 305 306	BLX DB LA BLX QB LA BLX QB LA	OT 20 SEC 05 PH 1 OT 20 SEC 09 PH 1 OT 21 SEC 07 PH 1	T-671290 T-673627-A T-673233-A	20.12 20.12 20.12
61 61	BLK 01 LOT 28 SEC 04 PH II	T-667020 T-665913 T-672379-A	20.12 20.12 20.12	34.50 38.50 36.50	211,601.57 211,601.57 212,066.57	224 225 226	BLK 04 LO	T 32 SEC ON PHON T 32 SEC ON PHON T 34 SEC 02 PHON	T-667 148 T-732794 T-866813	20.12 20.12 20.12	38.30	211 M 57 165 860 M 206 256 (0	397 396 397 428	THUK OF LA	OT 22 SEC 06 PM 1 OT 22 SEC 05 PM 1 OT 22 SEC 09 PM 1 OT 23 SEC 09 PM 1	T-670967 T-671300 T-673829-A T-673830-A	20.12 20.12 20.12 20.12
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- Single, 24 to 30 years old Have at least 2 years software development
- experience using Visual Basic and Java Must demonstrate flexibility and willingness
- to handle assignments anywhere in Luzon · Shall be based in Ortigas Center Head Office

Mail your cover letter, resumé, 2x2 ID, and transcript of records c/o HRMD DEPT., PRODUCERS BANK CENTER, MAHARLIKA HIGHWAY, SANGITAN, CABANATUAN CITY, NUEVA ECIJA 3100. Deadline is December 10, 2004.

GEUMWHA PSC COMPANY LTD. KOREA

URGENTLY NEEDS 20 TIG WELDERS

(Under the Employment Permit System)

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

provided (apart from monthly salary)

- Male, 18-39 years old Two (2) years experience in Tig Weiding, preferably with
- plant exparience Able to pass technical skills test and oral interview to be
- conducted by the employer Willing and able to enter Korsa by Jenuary 18, 2005

 Have no record of violation of Korea's Immigration Act (for ex-Korea applicants)

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT Bese salary approximately 882,000 Korean Won based on 294 working hours Accommodation, meals and transportation for commuting to work

Extra pay for overtime Additional pay rate: 50% Interested applicants should register at WINDOW M Manpower Registry Division, Ground Floor, BLAS F. OPLE Bldg. (formerly POEA Bldg.) Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City and submit in a creme folder detailed resume with job description specifying the name of projects, duties, responsibilities, both domestic and overseas; one (1)

2x2 picture colored, white background, certificate of employment 10 DECEMBER 2004 DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION 16 DECEMBER 2004 DATE OF INTERVIEW Bring passport or driver's Reense

> "Mag-Ingat se mge (liegal Recruiters" APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION

> > Director II

(Sgd.) NIMFA D. DE GUZMAN

Government Placement Branch

USAID

Desk Fare

研デ DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manifa will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential appliances, on an "AS IS-WHERE-IS" basis

Dryers Washers Gas Ranges ₩ater Heaters Vacuum Cleaners Air Cleaners

Bug Zappers

Refrigerators Window type Air Condilloners Microwava Ovens Other miscellaneous items

All items can be inspected and bid placed on December 13 and 14, 2004, from 8 00 a m to 4 00 p.m. Location: Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Blvd., (formerly Tramo St.) Pasay City, Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) are done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on December 16 and 17, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

For further information, please call Mr. Romy Arquisola or Mr. Allan Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-9684, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 3

for reservations / cancellauons / corrections Monday to Sunday : 12:00 noon -Day before publication ?



Nelly Montilla vda. de Lovina

died on December 4, 2004

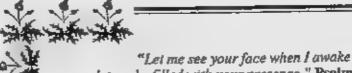
Her bereaved sons: Ramon Jr. and Georgia Paterno; Roberto and Bernadette Paterno; Vicente and Isabel Lovina; and Manolo (†) and Marylou Lovina

Her grandchildren: Pia Paterno; Mia and Eugie Rodriguez; Chiqui and Michelle Paterno; Jaime Paterno (†); Mikel Lovina (†); Ines Lovina; Macrina Lovina; and Marta Lovina

Her great grandchildren: Krisanne, Christian and Christopher (†) Santos; Rykee, Arianna, Alessandro, and Nadia Rodriguez; and Marty and Noelle Paterno

request prayers for her eternal repose.

There will be a Mass for her on Sunday, December 5, 2004, at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel of the Sampaguita studios at 27 Ortigas Avenue Extension, Quezon City, after which her ashes will be flown to Pulupandan, Negros Occidental, for interment.



let me be filled with your presence." Psalm 17:15

Engr. Florante R. Arcinas

Manager

Administrative and Power Generation Department Isabela Electric Cooperative

> Died in the grace of the Lord at the age of 53 on December 1, 2004.

His loving wife Rosemarie (Po), their children Rommel, Roderick and Laura Krisma, his mother Antonia, his brothers and sisters and their spouses, Edwin and Zeny, Gary and Aleg. Anthony and Minda, Bini and Rene, Grin, Percy and Mel, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Alicia

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, after the 8 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Atocha Parish Church in Alicia, Isabela.



Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

ABELARDO V. SANTOS

who joined his Creator on November 26, 2004

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

CLASSIFIEDS



Subic Bay Golf & Country Club Blg. 6900 Binictican Drive, SBFZ, Olongapo City, Philippines Tel. (047) 252-1588 to 89

WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

COLF EVENTS CODRIBINATING MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Preferably male and physically fit
- Must have at least three years experience
- Must be a golfer
- Must know how to organize tournaments and golf events
- With knowledge in the golf scoring system
- With good communication skills, customer service
- Decisive and willing to work long hours
- Must know how to train and handle caddles
- Willing to be assigned in Subic

MARKETINII SUPERVISUN

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Preferably female, not more than 30 years of age Must have some experience in events coordination
- Knowledge in gold is an advantage Good communication skills and good PR Willing to work long hours and be assigned in Subto
- Good in market survey, marketing plan and team building

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé to:

SUBIC BAY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

c/o Administration Department Bldg. 6900 Binictican Orive Subic Bay Feeeport Zone 222 Clongapo City

Immigrate to Nova Scotia (Canada)

NOVA SCOTIA NOMINEE PROGRAM

CSIC Licensed Canadian immigration Consultant Ms. Marte Deltz

will be in Marilla on December 20, 2004 to January 7, 2005 FOR PROSPECTIVE IMMIGRANTS W/ A NETWORTH OF \$300,000

TO \$789,000. & AT LEAST 2 YEARS OF BUGINESS

MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE
CIC IS CURRENTLY PROCESSING MEDICAL & SECURITY CHECKS
FOR NOMINEE APPLICATIONS WITHIN A 8-9 MONTH PERIOD.



PROLIVETAL MOD

Republic of the Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development Batasan Pambarisa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ITB No. GOP/04-DSWD-009

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders for eligibility and to bid for the Printing and Delivery of Learning Materials for Day Care Centers. The beneficiaries of the 5,000 sets of tearning materials shall be the day care centers/workers from the municipalities of the 1st District of Bohol. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is Two Million Pesos (Php 2,000,000.00).

Bidding Documents will be available starting December 1, 2004, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000 00). The bidding procedures shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). Prospective bloders may obtain further Information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone no. 951-7116, Mondays through Fridays, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (look for Dennis P. Manifa or Angelena DP, Arabit).

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on December 9, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. to be held at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD Central Office, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission and opening of bids will be on December 21, 2004, 2:00 p.m. at Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor OSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. Late blds will not be accepted.

The DSWD assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or Indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) MARGARITA SAMPANG Director IV and Vice-Chairperson, BAC-II

SPER May 28 & Out. 5, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS OF CERTIFICATES OF STOCK Historia a lateraty governmente informeng Stock Cardennes of Stant of the Prospone internot improvement own frost by Missoo Express Service Corporation while in torsel for demony postward to hardel occurrence product of the President Grown Mounts, daily registered as Doc No. 451. Page No. 97. Society to 3. Service of 2004 in the Holland Ringsby of Any Federate Jacobse Annual Programme. An Instancy Public for and in Las Priess Cel., Making Mental, Philospheret.

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Republic of the Philippines Department of Science and Technology PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE Address, Commonwealth Avenue, Dieman, Quezon City P.O. Box Nos. 213 U.P. Quezon City 932 Marela: 1914 Central, Quezon City

Telephone Nos. 928-8010 to 19 Fax No 920-1846 INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBRATY AND TO BID

The Philippine Nuclear Research institute (PNRI) is inviting all

interested bidders for our forthcoming public bidding for

ONE (1) UNIT X-RAY CALIBRATION SYSTEM WITH ACCESSORIES

ISSUANCE OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT PRE BID CONFERENCE

DEC. 7, 2004 SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT OEC. 8, 2004 DEC. 17, 2004 BIDDING

APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT IS EIGHT MILLION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE THOUSAND PESOS (P8,379,000.00). For inquiries interested parties may contact the BAC Secretarial at Tel. Nos. 929-60-11 to 19 loc. 275 (ofo Julie Mandoza) or visit our website at http://

hwww.pnri.dost.gov.oh The Bids and Awards Committee and the Institute reserve the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect thereto, accept bids or may be deemed

adventageous thereto or postpone the bidding for whatever cause it may deem in case of fallure, a re-bodding shall automatically be scheduled five (5) calendar days after the announcement of latted bidding at the same time and

place at the first bidding. (Sgd.) CORAZON C. BERNIDO, Ph.D.

Deputy Director and Charperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PO) - Non 26 à Cer 5, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that MS. MICHELLE C. TATEL is no longer connected with C. F. SHARP CREW MANAGEMENT, INC. effective November 18, 2004.

All transactions entered into by the person stated above for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(For POEA purposes only)

Send your resumé instantly. sandoputamente



Please contact our office to get the details and make your reservations. Standard Immigration Services Inc. Tel: 721-3738; 0917/817 1827, 0917/481-4186 F-Mail: standardphtlippines@yahoo.com

CLASSIFIEDS



The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE -ADVERTISING

Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably Marketing or any Business course
- Knowledge in basic computer operations Interpersonal skills, Report Writing skills, Presentation skills, Filing skills, Communication skills

Responsibility:

 Responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with clients and ad agencies with the end view of soliciting ad placement to meet overall sales quota.

AUDIT ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Accounting graduate, preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 2 years experience in auditing
- Preferably from reputable auditing firms
- Knowledge of General Accounting & Auditing Principles & Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for the
- Professional Practice of Internal Auditing Knowledge of Financial Data analysis,
- Taxation & Labor Laws Analytical skills, Team player, can promote & implement appropriate process
- improvements Knowledge of auditing systems in newspaper industry

Responsibilities:

- Perform audit procedures, organize working papers, prepare and communicate reports based on results of audit examinations.
- Assisting in identifying risk, evaluating controls and preparing audit plans/ programs.

DESK EDMORS

Qualifications:

- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journausm
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:

- · Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

MARKETING INFORMATION OFFICER

Qualifications:

- Graduate of 4 year Business course, Management Information Systems or any relevant course
- 2 years marketing experience
- Knowledge in market research, product price, distribution and promotions strategies and its implementation.
- Creative Writing Skills, Ability to analyze the market and ability to organize, leadership skills, Interaction Management Skills & computer skills
- Familiar with database management systems
- Has experience in developing wireless promotions.

Responsibilities:

 Responsible for the administration of the encoding and compiting of database derived from various mediums for brand use. Also responsible for managing and developing the wireless and text promotion for brands in order to assist in achieving sales targets

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral
- Preferably male, at least 2 years
- experience in recruitment and selection · Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software Interpersonal and Communication Skills,
- Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:

 To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR information system

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD

Philippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@nouirer.com.oh

Hingemedia, inc.

Hinge Media Inc., a dynamic company engaged in the publication of high-quality magazines, is in immediate need of the following:

Marketing Manager

- 1. Responsibility
 - Directly responsible for all the marketing, promotions and event initiatives of the publications Conceptualizes, develops, manages and implements marketing activities

 - Capable of conceptualizing and/ or designing in-store collaterals and merchandising materials
- 2. Requirements: Must possess a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Mass Communications, Marketing,
 - Advertising/ Media or the equivalent Preferably with two years experience in sales & marketing, specializing in publishing &
 - printing or the equivalent Exemplary communication & presentation skills Female, 25 to 35 yrs. o.d, aggressive & hardworking

Marketing Assistant

1. Responsibility

- Will report directly to the Marketing Supervisor in coordinating all marketing, promotions, and event initiatives and will provide assistance in conceptualization, execution and monitoring of marketing programs
- Flexible, dynamic, aggressive and able to work with minimal supervision Prepares reports for both pre and post event updates and able to handle multiple projects
- Male, 23 to 30 yrs. old, aggressive & hardworking Must possess a Bachelor's/ Cotlege Degree in Mass Communications, Marketing,
- Advertising/ Media or the equivalent
- Very good interpersonal and communication skills Proficient in the use of MS office applications

Account Executive

- Responsibility
 - The Account Executive will be directly responsible for soliciting advertisements for
- commercial publications
- 2. Regulrements:
 - Female, 23 to 30 yeas old, aggressive and hardworking Must be a graduate of any four-year course from a reputable university
 - Must have at least 2 years of sales experience in the industry. Those with less than
 - 2 years work experience need not apply Must possess excellent verbal and written English and Filipino communication skills Must have strong, persuasive presentation skills
- Applicants are required to personally bring resume, two (2) pieces 2" x 2" photos, transcript of records and any valid ID. Interested parties they visit our office from Monday to Friday from 9 00am to 12noon at 2304-05 Cityland Herrera Tower, 98 Herrera corner Valero Streets, Salcado Village, Makati City 1227 Philippines tel. no 813 6848

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation

2228 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Maketi City Tel. No. 841-4000-30; Fax No. 841-4909; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph;

SPECIAL DISPOSITION COMMITTEE

implementary to ear

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites interested bidders to purchase on cash basis only by way of SEALED BIDS the following property:

DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID			
Seven (7) contiguous 'parcets of lot, with improvements thereon and a total net usable area of 2,011.24 sq. mirs.	Taft Avenue Extension, Barangay 59, Sta. Clara District, Pasay City, adjacent to Iglesia Filipina Independente and the LRT Libertad Station. The Property was the former site of Banco Primero Development Bank.	PHP 86 MM			

Complete description/specifications of the property, Conditions of Bid, bid forms and other related documents, shall be made available for a fee of P 500.00 to interested bidders from December 6 to 15, 2004 at the Office of the Secretariat, Special Disposition Committee, at the Ground Floor, PDIC Building, 2228 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. For further details, please contact Engr. Emesto R. Tones, Jr. at telephone number 841-4000 local 4902.

Sealed bids shall be dropped at the Bid Box located at the Secretariat Extension Office, 8º floor, PDIC Ayala Extension Office, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Maxati City not later than 2:00 P M. on December 16, 2004. The bids shall be labelled "Special Disposition Committee, PDIC Makati City*

Sidder's deposit equivalent to 10% of the bid price in Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check payable to PDIC must be enclosed with the sealed bld.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to accept any bid, or to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated, is the most beneficial to PDIC.

PDIC also assumes no obligation whatsoevar to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of the bid nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

[PDI Dec 3,445 2004)



Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on December 9, 2004, 2:00 p.m., Auditorium of the OBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyal Avenue, Makati City for the following properties:

CODE	LOGATION	DESCRIPTION	M	MENINON BED		
BULAÇAN						
AM-PY-286	Along Cagayan Valley Road, Srgy. Tambubong, San Ralasi	8 contiguous lots (TCT Nos. T-167376 to T-167381 total ages of 45,997 m²	P	44,200,000,00		
OZANIZ						
AMI-CP-297	Along National Highway, Bagy Meningcol, Ozamiz City	5 contiguous lots (TCT Nos. T-26086-T-26088, T-26090 & T-26092) Iola, area of 22,262 m² w/ ricemili bidg. & imp.	P	84,113,850.00		
TARLAG			_			
AM-ED-288a	Along McArihur Highway, Brgy, Estrada, Capas	2 contiguous lots (TCT Nos. 361740 & 361741) total area of 25.155 m² w/ bidg. & imp	Р	18,405,000.00		
AM-ED-288b	-do	Various machinery & expt. for brick-making (sale on *as-is where-is" basis)	P	3,000.00 to 56,860.00		

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

- To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the old ding;
- 2. To submit in OBP's official bid form available at AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office, Mahati
- 3. Yo be on time. No hids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be addited to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DRP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING

For Inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1568/893-7172 or 618-9511 local 2218/2252

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT



(PDI-Day 44.5 2004)

Republic of the Philippines Office of the Prosident Metro Maritis Devotopment Authority PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

ATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Minor Piepsir Works of One (1) Scotmans Grandovold Bost Minor repeir works of the engine, hydractic system and fuel system factuding majuriels and labor

The Pasig River Rehabiliation Commission (PRRC), through Republic Act No. 9206 (RA No. 9206) otherwise known as the Control Appropriations Act of 2002 as retracted for 2004. Intends to apply the sum of Nine Hundred Thury Four Thousand Three Hundred Short Two Pasins (Physiad 362-00) being the Approved Sudget for the Control (ABC) to payments under the Control (ABC) to payments under the Control of the ABC at all the automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PFERC now invites segred Bids from eligible Bidders for the Repair of One (1) Ecologic Granderold Boat. Monor repair warfs is required to be complianed within 30 calendar days. The description of an eligible States is continued in Section II of the States Companies. Instructions to Biddless (178)

Bidding shall be conducted through upon competitive bidding procedures using hom-discretionary pass/fall criteria as specified in the treptementing Busis and Regulations Part A (PRI-A) of R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Processes of Reptement Reference Act, and is initiated to organizations with at least stay percent (60%) whereat or outstanding capital stack betanging to case as a free Psingpries as possessed in PsA No. 5183. Only Busis from Bidders who pass the dephility events shall be opened. The process for the aligning checked in Section II of the Bidders who pass the dephility events shall be because at the forest calculated and (ICB) shall subvents to the post-qualification stage in order to treaty determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial regulariments of the Project. The Coolings shall have be awarded to the subveried calculated and Responsive Bidder (ICRB) determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Strickers may obtain further information from PRRC and Inspect the Badding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

A complaine set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Biddine from the address below and upon payment of a normal readoble see in the amount of Nine Thousand Passos (Php9.000.00). The method of payment will be in ceah or manager's check. The Balding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidding Documents.

PRPIC shall hold a Pre-Bid Conference upon to all litteristed Parties on December 14, 2004 at \$100 a.m. at the MADA Whiterways Group Assa, Philippine Security Group, Melacastang Complex, Manda

Bids and eligibility requirements small be delivered to the authors below at or before December 27, 2004 at exactly 12:00 noon. At Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amounts. Like Bids street not be accepted.

Minimum Amount in % of Approved Form of Security Budget for the Contract to be Bid One parcent (1%) 1. Cash, cortings check, manager's chick, bank digit or movocable letter of childle One and a half percent (1.5%) 2. Bank Guarantea Two and a ball percont (2.5%) 3. Surety Bond

Bid opening shall be an discember 27, 2004, 3:00 p.m. at the PRRC Confesence Room. Bids shall be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend

The PPPC resource the right to appeal or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject of Stds at any limit prior to Contract sweet, without thesely incurring any liability to the affected Endoor or Biddori.

(Sod.) BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ

(PDI-Nov 28 & Dec 5, 2004)

Pasig River Parlabilitétan Commission 2F MWSS Engineering Bidg. Katpunian Rood, Citil Ballare, Oueston City 1105 Tel: Mos. 433-3444 and 413-3448

Restaurant Business for Sale Fully Furnished within Intramuros near Letran,

Lyceum, PLM, and Mapua

Excellent Business Opportunity For inquirles, please call or text Gerardo Cornejo 0918-9351615



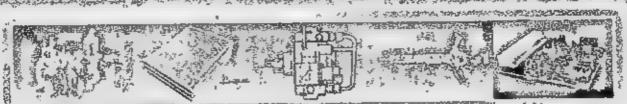
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- Travel
- Weddings*
- Surprises

IN THIS ISSUE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The MOTICAL fairs

Featuring 13 top designers,
'Wedding March at the NBC Tent' is touted to be
the standard-setting wedding expo of next year

Story on page C4





'STONESCAPED' garden

HANOI'S Temple of Literature /F1



FAMOUS 7 sails off /H2



FINDING her true home







THE NEXT Eugene Torre?



Sunday LIFESTYLE



BRIDE'S FAMILY, joyce Tan-Williams, engineer jovito Tan, the bride, josefina Tan and engineer Joseph Tan

ZAFRA-TAN NUPTIALS



WITH FRIENDS and wedding coordinators. Angle Galang, Jerome Javier, Chris Tungol, May Cerdan, Benny Cano, Bobot Casingal, Jojo Salegumba and Lucy Pioquinto

Mwedding woven in pina and silk

T was a well-crafted ceremony delicately constructed like an exquisite fabric with every strand in place. The solemn wedding celebration was a weaving together of the threads of life of Dr. Adnan Meñez Zafra and Dr. Josievitz Umali Tan, integrating and interconnecting, too, the life of their relatives and friends.

The elegant nuptial rites were held on the Feast Day of Guardian Angels at Nuestra Señora de Gracía Chapel in Guadalupe Viejo, Mondaluyong City, officiated by Bishop Gabriel V. Reyes, Bishop Raul Q. Martirez, Msgr. Antonio B. Unson and Msgr. Alex A. Meñez.

The trend-setting reception at the Grand Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula was a memorable experience shared and enjoyed by the couple's immediate family and social circle, particularly engineer Mario L. Zafra and lawyer Amelia A. Meñez-Zafra, and engineer Jovito H. Tan and Josefina E. Umali-Tan, lan's and Jose's parents, respectively.

Lending the couple support were close relatives and associates like engineer Armand Meñez Zafra; Ian's brother, who also was his best man, Ma. Cristina G. Tungol, Josie's cousin, who was the maid of honor

Some of their principal sponsors were Dean Amaha V Angeles, Dr. Robert I. Eustaquio, Dr. Jame F. Plot, Dr. Paus M. Murry, lawyer Rodingo U. Makalinao, Remedios S. Umah, Angelita C. Joven, Edith R. Sanchez and lan's aunt, Ruth Tirol Jarantilla, who gave the couple a week's stay at her Seawind resort in Boracay.

Predominant fabric

Prin silk was the predommant fabric used by members of the wedding entourage and most of the guests. The material was provided by Albert A. Meñez, Ian's uncle who is based in Kalibo, Aklan, the main source of the exquisite, gossamer-like fabric. Piña cloth is tediously handwoven by weavers in Aklan out of the strings of fibers taken from the leaves of the native piña that's endemic only in Panay. The finished fabrics are then embroidered mostly in Lumban, Laguna.

Almost all of the gowns were designed by Armando Geron, especially those worn by the bride, the maid of honor and the bridesmaids. The sponsors mentioned wore either piña silk or pure piña gowns designed by other couturiers. For instance, Vicky Meñez-Ramos had on a Patis Tesoro kimona-inspired termo with flailing sleeves and elaborate beadwork.



THE COUPLE with their parents, engineer jovito and josefina Tan, and engineer Mario L. Zafra and lawyer Amelia A. Meńez-Zafra



BISHOP Gabriel Reyes, Bishop Raul Martirez, Msgr. Alex Menez and Msgr. Antonio Unson

Ian Zafra
and Josie
Tan's tryst
at the altar
was an
occasion to
showcase
a proud
family

heritage

* Former General Santos City Mayor Adel Antonino was in piña barong. So, too, were former Ambassador Dominado C. Meñez and lan's uncle-priest, Msgr. Alex A. Meñez. Monsignor Alex were a pure piña barong made of distinctive sinulsok cloth, referring to a laborious method of embedding embrosdered patterns into the cloth while it is still being webbed.

Rep. Florencio T. Miraflores wore a piña silk barong, while the left-wing Bayan chair and now Rep. Teddy I. Casiño was in a bourgeos piña silk barong. In ironic contrast, Penny C. Tatad was in an elegantly simple tunic.

The stunning Enriqueta V Doble was in a splendid metallic gown made with a blend of pina and gold threads, while Bong M. Tirol was in his classic chie business attire.

Aside from the representatives of the business, politics and religious sectors, there were



WEDDING cake by jerry Gavilan

also friends and relatives like Albert Quimpo, Cel Reyes-Tinagan, Susan Mirto-Flor, Katipunan de los Reyes, Paul M. Icamina, Ernesto O. Macaisa, Engracio T. Suarez, and Joyce Tan-Williams, from the corporate, dipiomatic, information, pharmaceutical and media circles, indicative indeed of the couple's wide and extensive social support system.

Groomsmen were Dominic A. Medenilia and Michael S. Santos; bridesmaids were Ma. Rosarin D. Peralta and Ma. Victoria G. Lopez. Candle sponsors were Mark Anthony M. Meñez and Regeena S. Umali; veil sponsors were engineer Joseph U. Tan and Ma. Angelina O. Galang, while the cord sponsors were Wilfredo L. Lacuna and Renee S. Novelia. In prin silk all, they gave Ian and Josie's social fabric more variety, puzzazz and glamour.

Family trade

lan is actually a descendant of the Acevedo-Meñez clan from Aklan that has flourished for three generations by trading the fine fabric. It is also significant that most of the materials used are a blend of prio and silk, since Josie is a scion of Bulacan's Chinese-descended Umah-Tan family, Silk, as everyone knows, is a staple fabric in Chinese life and clique.

Even more significant, Doña Pilar Meñez y Hontiveros-Acevedo, Ian's grandmother, was the first to blend pula silk in the late '70s. She was also the first to be commissioned by the government to revive the dying inclustry.

Doña Piling continued the business from her mother-in-law, Doña Matrona Meñez y Fernandez-Raz, the grand marriarch of piño trading at the beginning of the century. Doña Matron supplled Tesoro's and Viscara from her Azcaraga store during the prewar years. Even in the early '30s, she was already exporting to London and New York.

lan's uncle, Aloysius A. Meñez, was instrumental in reviving the exotic piña-weaving techniques sike plil, ringue and suksok with embedded leaves, floral, stripe and checkered designs in the early '80s, even before it became popular to have piña with designs and colors.

It was also Aloy who first experimented with using gold and colored threads for embedding woven ethnic patterns and dying pina cloths with natural colors using organic pigments. He, too, supplied Tesoro's, Viscara and Rustan's, which sold them to tourists and foreign buyers.

He also made the exotic fabric haute courtire material by supplying Manila countriers like Ben Farrales, Piroy Moreno, Joe Salazar, Edgar Aquino, Budji Layug, Lany Laurel, Gang Gomez, Patis Tesoro and more

During the reception, a wonderful post-banquet advice was given lan and Josie by Msgr. Alex A. Meñez. He told the couple to dress well for any occasion by wearing puña, as it is the hallmark of the clan. He recalled that Pitoy Moreno, when asked "if he was to fashion clothes for God, what material would he use," supposedly had answered "piña."



WITH the secondary sponsors

BARAOIDAN

Arao Baraoidan,

firstborn of Imelda

Baraoidan-Halili o

Tuguegarao City, Ca-

gayan, will celebrate her 18th buthday at

the Grand Bailroom

Quezon City and

Rosario

of Hotel Rembrandt, QC, on Dec. 12.

and studded with sugar beads.

The debutante will wear a powder-blue ball gown designed and executed by Ernie Villamin, inspired by the Audrey Hepburn film classic, "Sabrina." The tapered organdy bodice, as well as the matching detachable half-moon petticoat, is fully embroidered, richly embellished with Swarovski crystais

Events coordinator and cotilion choreographer for the occasion are Jose Sy and Angelo Rivera, respectively. Movie actress Dexter

DEBUT

Celma

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information manes of engaged comple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the Information office, or PO. Bax 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail tifestyle@unquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



GUINO-RACELIS Freida Racelis

Racelis, daughter of Wilfredo P. Racelis (deceased) and lawyer Aida A. Racelis, will marry Oliver Guine, son of Prancisco M. Guino Sr. and Julita M. Guino, on Dec. 8, I p.m., at Sta. Maria Goretti Parish Church, Pope Pius XII, U.N. Avenue, Manila. Reception will follow at Trader's Hotel Manila, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.



ABAD MORAL

Maria Christela S. Moral, daughter of Francisco L. Moral and Herde S. Moral, will exchange marriage vows with Gerard Martin R Abad, son of lawyer Bonifacio M. Abad Jr. and Dr. Paz F. Abad, on Dec. 8 at Fernwood Gardens' Chapel of St. Francis of Assissi, QC. The bride will wear a creation by Ariel Belga.

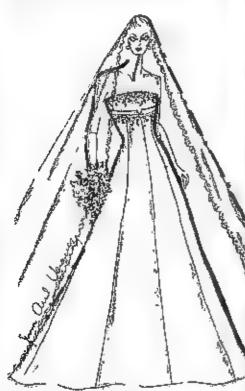


REMO-PEREZ

Dinna Perez will marry Dr. Melvin Remo in an Ito Curata bridal gown on Dec. 11, 7 p.m., at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

The strapless piña gown is embroidered and beaded with pearls and Swarovski crystals. The bride is the daughter of Rustica Liana vda. de Perez, while the bridegroom is the son of Lika Asensi vda. de Remo.

Reception will follow at the Basilica Pastora Center.



ALCANTARA LUBANGCO

Eric 8. Alcantara and Ailene Lubangco will get married on Dec. 8 at San Agustin Church, with the reception following at Illustrado Restaurant.

The bride is the daughter of Gloria and Renato Lubangeo, while the groom is the son of Cristina and Enrique Alcantera.

The bride will wear a tube empire-cut gown with beads and Swarovski crystals, designed by Simon Ariel Vasquez.

SANTAMARIA-ESCANO

Lawyer Cesar R. Santamaria Jr., son of Judge Cesar D, Santamaria and Carmelita R. Santamaria of Quezon City, and Jovyanne M. Escano, daughter of Jose U, Escano (deceased) and Priscilia M. Escano of Rosario, Batangas, will exchange marital vows on Dec. 10, 3:30 p.m., at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Jose, Reception will follow at Hotel InterContinental Manila, Makati City.



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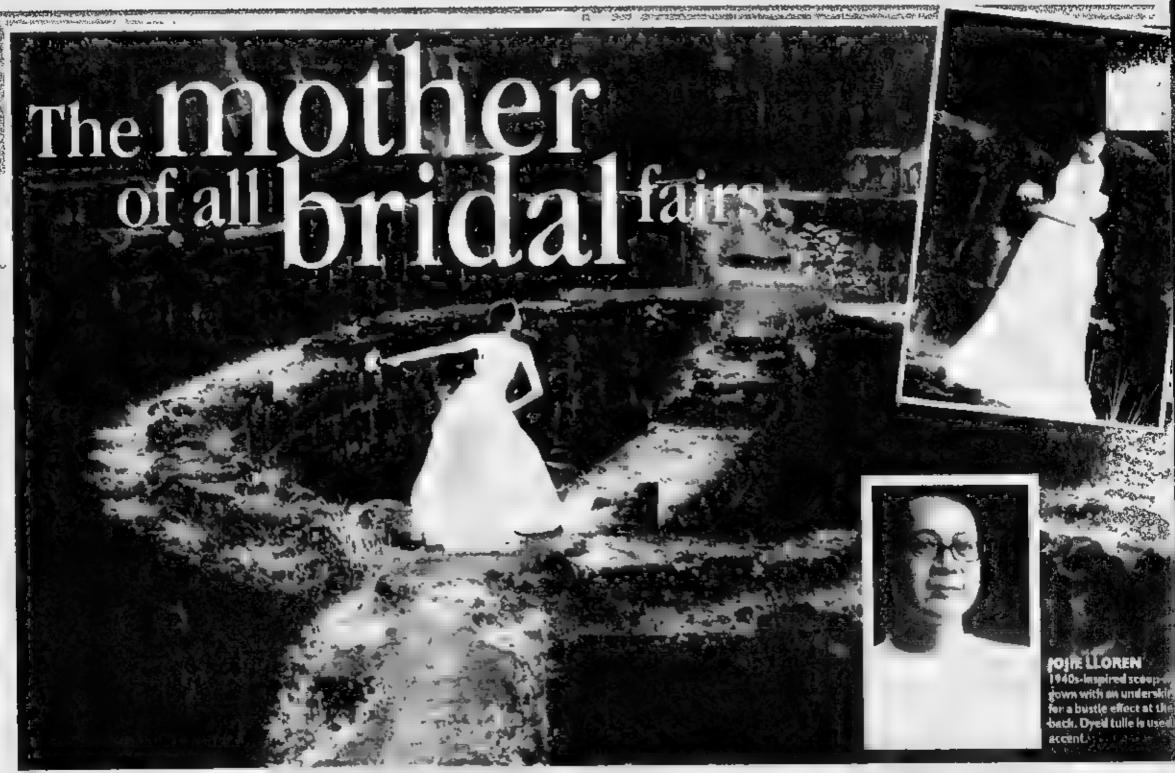
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PHOTOS: EDWINITLY AY AT BALLIANTE DE SAN DIEGO, INTRAMUROS: MODEL 45

By Cheche V. Moral

AKE this 13 of the country's top designers, 26 fabulous creations, in one grand bridal show.

After successfully staging "Wedding March at the Giorietta" in January, Philippine Daily inquires and cbv7 Media Master is gearing for its second outing, a bridal fair that promises to be bigger and grander in all scales.

Sunday The lafestyle section of the country's most awarded newspaper and cbv7 Media Master, a brida) events company helmed by veteran photographer Chito Vecina, are all set to present their sophomore project early next year, a fitting sequel to their first venture that, so to speak, made a killing at the box office.

"Wedding March at the NBC Tent" on Jan. 22-23, 2005, is touted to be the bridal event that will set the standard for all wedding fairs next year. Apart from the bigger vanue and the largest gathering of wedding suppliers, the organizers also got the nad of 13 of Manila's most respected designers to present their creations in a bridal fashion show dubbed "Evolutions: Prom the 1920s to the Present"

The show, to take centerstage on the evening of Jan. 23, will be directed by Raymund Villanueva.

Each of the 13 designers will present two designs each—one modern and one retro creation inspired by the decade of their choice, from the flapper-style of the 1920s to the years of excess in the 1980s.

Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Mike de la Rosa

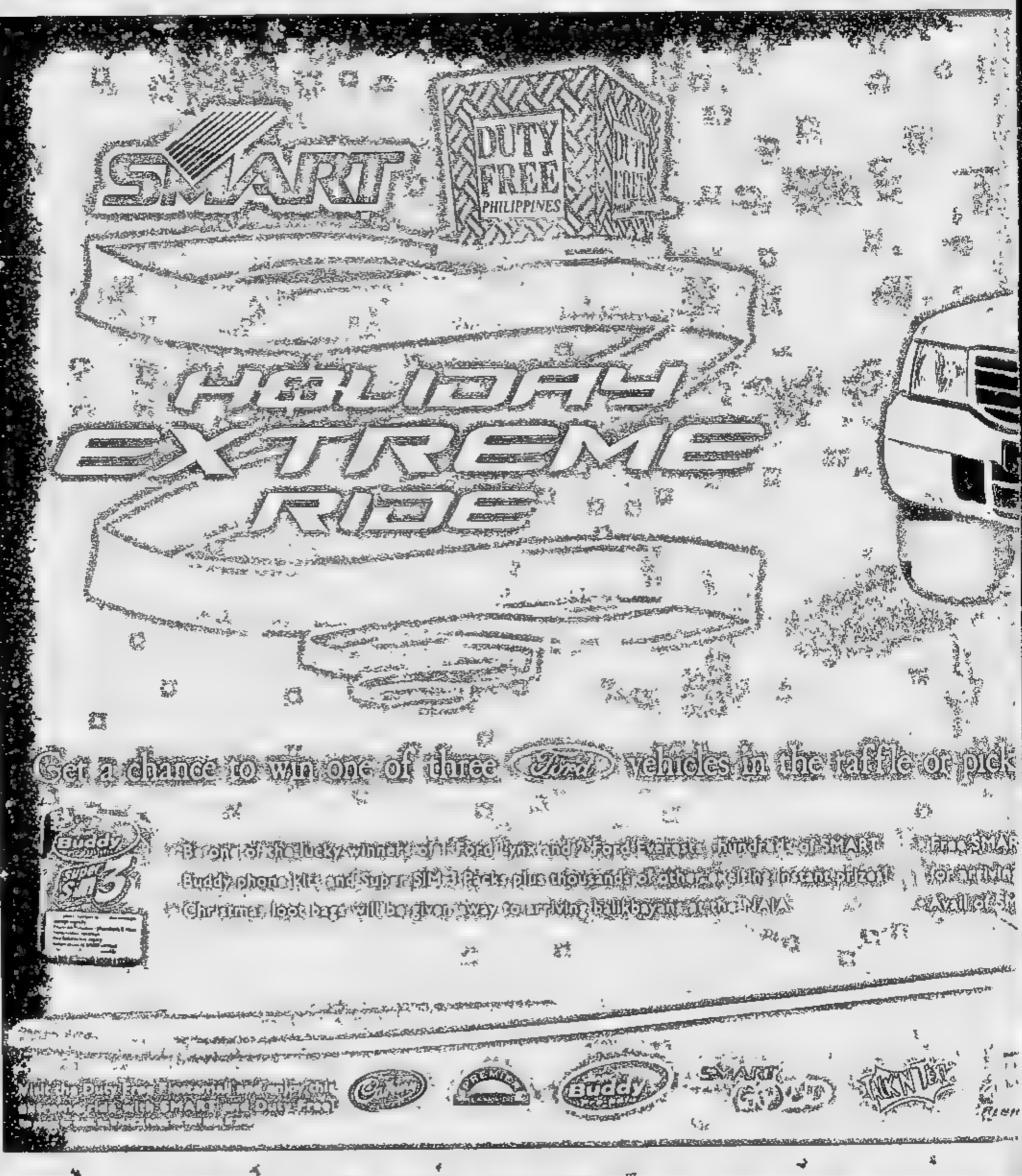


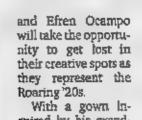






PHOTO: ORTO CLEONS AT PUBITAREAL, INTRAMUROS, MODEL, GEORGETTE PEÑA.

PATRICERAMONDIES Corded and knotted two-layer gown in tulle and silk organdy



spired by his grandmother's own, Eric Pineda will show a 1930s design with Art Deco influences.

Jojie . Lloren, known for his deft in construction, will represent the style from the wartime period of the '40s.

Wellrepresented

The glamorous '50s will be well-rep-resented with cre-

ations by four designers, including the reclusive Auggie Cordero, or "Auggie Hepburn," as his col-leagues like to cali him, in obvious aliunon to the couturier's adulation of the late Hollywood icon.

Inno Sotto, Cordero's equally respected contemporary, will also turn out a 50s-inspired number, alongside Frederick Peralta (who says the '50s were "when women wore clothes that enhanced their figure") and menswear designer Anthony Nocom.

The Swingin' '60s will be Rajo Laurel's turf, while relative newbie JC Buendia and veceran Lorecto will each present their Interpretation of a 1970s' bridal ensemble.

By his lonesome, Eddie Baddeo will show his take on the '80s bride.

(Sorto and Laurel were unable to send their designs for the promotional pictorial due to prior engagements.)

Premier makeup artist Patrick Rosas and his team will lend their expertise during the fashion show.

The two-day bridge affair will also present Rosas in "Petal Pusher: Bridal Hair and Makeup Trends," where, through a

THE MOTHER/ CA



Sunday LIFESTYLE



ESTE PURITUA

The bride's ensemble was based on Pineda's lold's gown for her own wedding in the 1930s, it has a tulle overskirt with Art Deco-patterned satin embroidery. The hair pieces of the bride are also Art Deco-inspired. The groom wears a 1930s-style tunedo.



AUGGIE CORDERO Audrey Hepburn-Inspired bouffant tulie skirt and a fully beaded bodice





PHOTO: CHITO VECINA AT MAKATI SHANGRI-LA, MODEL JOANN BITAGCOL





georgetta dress with hanky-cut skirt sprinkled

with beads

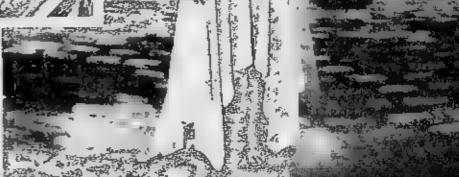


PHOTO: SERN MENAS AT CASA MANKA INTRAMUROS MODEL ANALLOREN

From page C4

photo exhibit, he will demonstrate the "re-turn of blooms as hair accessories for weddings."

The event will also be the exhibit venue of the winners and finalists of the "Candid Wedding Photo" contest jointly sponsored by Caron and the Inquirer's Sunday Lifestyle, (See story and list of winners in an upcoming Sunday Lifestyle issue.)

B-mail the author at amoral@inquirencom.ph

More photos on page C7



SELECT OF VALUE OF Ruched tube bodice with a fisily appliqued

skirt



PHOTO EDWINTUNKYAT BUSTRADO CAFE COURTYNID, BY BROWNES, MYJOS, GEURGETTE FENA



From page C6



PHOTO: BEAN MEJAS AT LUSTRADO CAPÉ BALLROOM, INTRAMLIROS. MODEL GEORGETTE PEÑA







PHOTO; EDWIN TUTAY AT MAKATI SHANGES LA

PHOTO: REPORTERAS AT CASA HAPALA, ENTRANGLEOS, MODEL: HAPACE RICAPORT

HAIR AND MAKEUP KLIKS REYES AND DAVE ASTILLERD FOR THE BYTRAMUROS SHOOT, ROBBIE MINERA FOR SHUTEHURA AND PATRICK ROSAS "TEAM...MARLON SUAREZ, MORL JIMENEZ, REY ARCIAGA FOR THE MAKATI SHANGRIJAA SHOOT

BOUQUETS: TONY RODRIGUEZ

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROSE PIMENTEL OF ILLISTRADO CAPE. THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND THE INTRAMCIPOS ADMINISTRATION; JOY WASSMER AND MAI HISLANG OF THE MAKAT. SHANGRINA

DESIGNERS' PHOTOS BY CHITO YEONA

EDWIN TUTYAY, BERN MERAS, CHITO CLEOFAS AND CHITO VECINA ARE MEMBERS OF THE WEDDING AND PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE PHILIPPINES



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art navel

Text by Alex Y. Vergara Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

OR A THING or an event to → happen in the physical world, it must first transpire in the mental one. This art dealer and his accountant-wife are no psychics, of Jaime Licauco's favorite maxims ents of three girls and a box as they waited for years to extend

and remodel their house into the dream home they had always wanted.

The couple (name withheld upon request) bought a 150-sq.-m. lot almost a decade ago in a middle-class subdivision in Antipolo. The modest two-story house they built on the properry gave the then newlyweds more than enough space until the children started arriving but they unwittingly went by one one after the other. The two are now proud par-

FAMILY/ DZ



THE CORRIDOR connecting the two houses is a gallery of "Mother and Child" paintings by various artists. Behind the walk are the master bedroom on one side and the kitchen on the other.



RA025 Losing Grip RA033 Skiller Boil

Atomic Kitten EA123 The Tide is High EA124 Whole Again EA125 The Last Goodbye EA126 Lady's Night EA131 Eternal Flame EA001 Be With You-

Britney Spears RA008 Everytime **FLA039 Toxic** RAD02 Baby One More Time

Christina Aguilera RA012 Genie In A Bottle RA022 | Turn To You RA006 Come On Over

Jamie Rivera EA080 Hey its Me EA081 I've Fallen For You

Janet Jackson EA010 All Night EA135 Someone To Call My Lover EA136 All For You

Jessa Zaragosa EA061 Siya Ba Ang Dahilan EA084 Nahuli Kita

Joss Stone EA034 Super Duper Love EA142 You Had Me EA143 Don't You Wanna Ride EA144 Fell in Love With The Boy

EA053 Human Nature EA075 Because Of You EA076 Hanggang Ngayon EA187 | Feel For You EA191 Not Your Ordinary Girl

RA054 Change RA074 Live Together RA079 Never Never Gorma Give You Up RA097 The Real Thing RA102 You Can't Deny It

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Stacie Orrico EA014 More To Life EA059 Stuck

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RA061 How Will I Know FA068 It's Not Right But It's Ok RA081 On My Own RA089 So Emotional PA065 | Wanna Dance With Somebody

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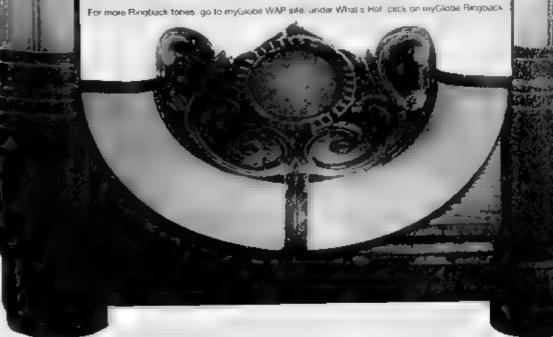
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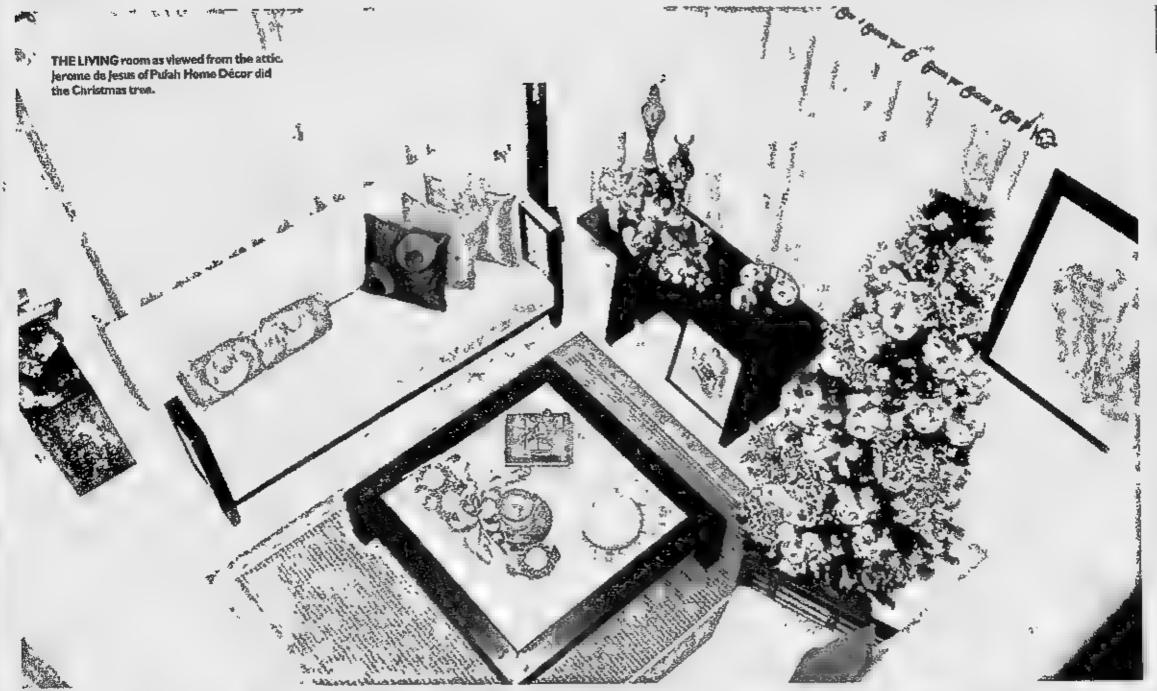
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Familyhome, arthaven

From page D1

"The second floor wasn't of much use since we made it into an attic," says the wife. "Imagine, the living room, dining room, kitchen and three small bedrooms were all competing for limited space on the first floor."

Buying the vacant lot behind their property wasn't an option, as the couple was then struggling to make ends meet. The husband was a banker until he shifted to art dealership after learning the ropes of the business from his big sister. But unlike his sibling, who owns an art gailery and furniture store at SM North Edsa, he runs a roving gallery that brings art works instead to would be buyers.

"I used to imagine the empty lot as ours," he says with a chuckle, "I even called out from the window to imaginary household members and invited them over for meals every time funch or dinner was served."

lust in time

They had no idea that the lot could someday be theirs, until some years later when the husband saw an obscure "For Sale" sign as he went for a rare walk around the block. And just in the nick of time, as his US-based parents were then planning to retire in the Philippines. Ever the dutiful son, he took it upon himself to house his folks once they returned home for good.

Fortunately, his art dealership business was already beginning to pick up. Armed with modest savings, he bought the lot and soon had a second two-story concrete structure built on their newly acquired property. The first floor was to house his parents, while the second floor with a separate flight of stairs was to be his future office.

"When my parents finally moved in," he says, "we were in effect ninning two houses with separate entrances on a single lot straddling one block."

Since everything depended on their finances, it took the couple a few more years to finally join the two houses together. It went



THE FRONT rock garden features a kor pond. Decorative brackets come from an old

This Antipolo couple had to wait years to get their dream house, but their patience has been amply rewarded





THE EIGHT-SEATER square table feature a chandener by Orlina, which contrasts with De Jesus' Jush Christma: topian

OPPOSITE view of "Mother and Chad" gallery. Pin lights brighten up the entire home, causing the family's electricity bill to shoot up.



THE MASTER bedroom with sliding glass doors leading to the back garden with soothing

water fountains

beyond merely building a "bridge" to connect both structures, as the older one badly needed a major overhaul.

Work started early this year and was finished just in time before November rolled in. Even when money was right, the couple, especially the husband, never lost hope as he visualized how the family's future abode would eventually look like,

Since he had already accumulated a number of artworks by renowned artists such as Austria, Moscoso, Cacnio (both father and son), Cusi, Bianco, Castrillo, Orlina, Magsaysay-Ho and Olmedo, he had set his mind on a Filipino-inspired home with Asian

Of course, whatever its outcome was, the newly renovated structure should blend seamlessly with his parents' retirement home.

The husband hared the services of architect Alex Salvador and interior designer Vincent Cantuba. He supplemented existing furniture and accent pieces with stuff from Pulah Home Décor (SM North Edsa).

Interior designer and landscape artist Jerome de Jesus later worked on the Zen-inspired front and back gardens as well as this year's Christmas décor. Since it will be the



THE VIEWING room is warm, cozy and, yes, full of artworks.

tually had to give in to my husband's wishes if ...

only to maintain the peace." The wife is also having a hard time finding beauty in Olmedo's almost grotesque images, never mind if the late artist's dark paintings now fetch a fortune. She, however, shares her husband's love for artworks by such artists as Cusi, Cacnio, Orlina and Austria.

"I still have a great deal to go in terms of broadening my appreciation for the arts," she says. "I've learned a lot through my husband."

One area they wholeheartedly agree on is the master bedroom. Located in the first floor, the couple's private quarters, with only drapes and sliding glass doors separating them from the outside world, opens into a rock garden and the soothing sound of several mini-formtains. The front garden also has its own calming water element in the form of a key pond.

I wanted the master bedroom to be in the first floor," says the husband, "because we intend to grow old together in this house. I can't imagine us climbing a flight of stairs several times a day as we advance in years."

The couple is definitely here to stay.

E-mail the author at avergara@inqutrescom.ph-

SCULPTED his and hers sink and a huge mirror framed by a

"Our current electric bill has increased sev-

The wife willingly took a supporting role

while the husband dealt with the specifics.

Her only wish, which eventually came true,

The couple achieved this by utilizing a sub-

was more room for their growing family.

stantial part of the attic as the chil-

dren's bedrooms and study area. They had the ceiling insu-

lated and the bedrooms air-

conditioned to make them

In lieu of the living room's low

ceiling, a high one now exists, as Sal-

vador had the old one tora down.

More space in the first floor

meant a bigger living room, din-

ing area and lotchen. The couple

room and the de rigueur powder room.

even has space to spare for an entertainment

art and interior design is quite limited," says

the wife. "Even now I still have problems with

the Buddha image in the entertainment room.

I feel as if I'm being watched whenever we're

there. I really wanted to take it out, but I even-

120

"I have to admit that my knowledge about ANTRICATE brass

sculpture by Cacrio

more conducive.

eral-fold," she says good-naturedly. "But the house now looks a lot brighter because of the

lights and beige walls."

HIS and hers walk-in closets lead to the main bathroom.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



family's first time to celebrate the holiday season together in their newly refurbished home,

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the couple wanted the tinsel to look special. "I gave them plenty of creative elbow room to work on the house," he says. "My only requirement was adequate space to display my collection of 'Mother and Child' paintings by various artists."

Pin lights

The artworks have now found an ideal gatlery, as they line a long corridor that connects both houses. A series of pin lights illuminate the paintings-to the husband's delight and the wife's dismay. Well, sort of.

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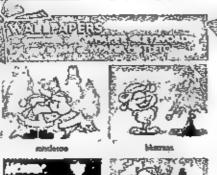
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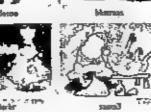
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Know your orchid

By Serapion S. Metilla Contributor

RCHID comes from the Greek word orchis that means testicles. Generally, it has irregular flowers with pendant sepals looking like testicles.

Plants with these characteristics—three sepals and two petals, with a third at the center that is called hp-belong to the Orchidaceae family.

The orchid, known for its exquisite beauty, is still considered the called ground orchids), Singapore orchid queen of all exotics, forever thrilling the human heart. Descriptions of over 800 genera and other 35,000 species have been compiled. Hybrids created to improve the species are estimated to be over 40,000

now and still growing. About 85 percent of orchids come from the tropics. Asia is said to be richest in orchids. They include the Bulbophyllum, Cymbidium, Vanda, Dendrobium, Pha-laenopsis, Calanthe, Paphiopedilum, Coelogyne and Phaius.

The Cattleys, Miltonia, Oncidium Epidendrum, Odontoglossum, Catasetum, Brassia and some others are from tropical

Found in Africa are the Polystachya, Dise, Ansellia and Lisochilus. The continent with the least number of orchid

species is Antarctica. In the temperate zones are the Spiranthes, Orchis and

In the tropics, most orchids are epiphytic, meaning they grow suspended on tree trunks, thus, they are also called air plants. On the other hand, orchids are mainly terrestrial, meaning they grow on the ground,

in temperate zones. Examples of the epiphytic type are the Phalaenopsis, also called but-

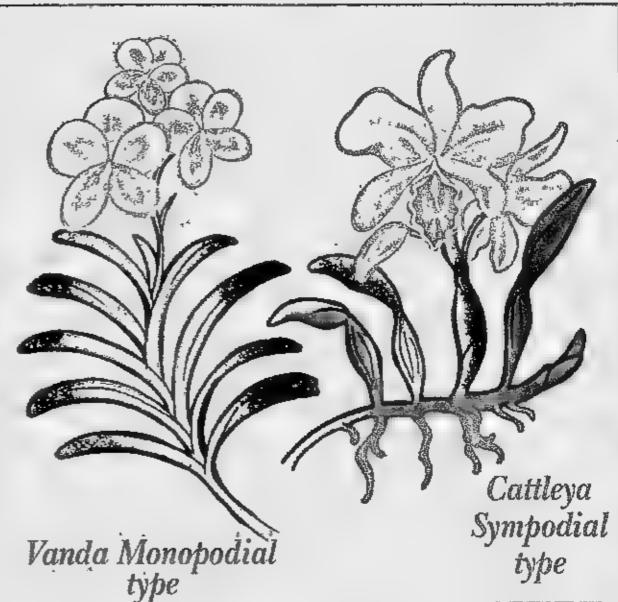
terfly or moth orchid. Some **GREEN TIPS** orchids that can be cultured in ground are Spathoglottis (commonly (Vanda Miss Agnes Joaquim), Vandopsis, and some Cymbidiums.

Belonging to the Monocotyledon family, like grasses and palms, orchids are either monopodial or sympodial.

The monopodial, having true stems, have leaves along the side of stems and adventitious roots that can secure the plant in place and get nutrients. The plant keeps growing and can be top-cut for propagation. Examples are the Vandas, Phalaenopsis and Vanilla

Sympodial types are those without true stems. Examples are the Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums, Oncidiums, Paphiopedilums and most orchid species.

To learn more about orchids, join the Philippine Orchid Society, Call 9294425. Contact this writer at 9394593.



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TOO beautiful to mix with garden plants, this piece of nature's

artwork is

better left

alone in the

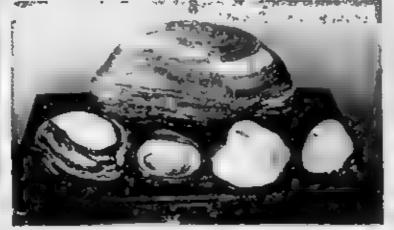
center of a

table.

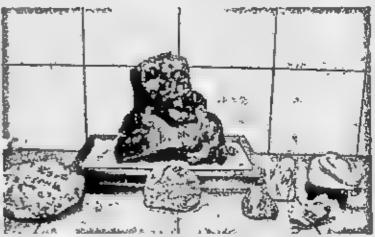
Sunday



THESE smaller rocks collected from the North are displayed in the Suiteki corner while the bigger garden rocks deck various spots in the garden.



THESE rocks docked a rain-soaked bonsai garden before photographer Betoy johnson brought them indoors for the photo



MORE of these rocks with fascinating forms and colors are used as accents in the landscape.

MWW artwork is no eldisiv the surface of these weathered

THIS chunk of

layered rock is from

a bigger piece that

Garden fstones—and rocks

Text by Tita Y. Giron

Photos by Betry Johnson

UT there in Talavera, Nueva Ecija, young landscaper Lorenz inos is restyling local gardens to make use of the beautiful stones and rocks that abound in those parts. "Stonescape" is the artistic arrangement of stones and rocks in the garden.

lnos has transformed his garden's mountainscape design into a showcase of stones and rocks.

Although he has had several landscaping projects -- a retiree's cactus and succulent retreat, a rancher's farm garden and an expatriate's waterfail Eden, none accentuated the beauty of

natural stones the way he has arranged them in his restyled garden, and lately in the garden of client Percy Reeby's vacabonchome. 🔑 🖘

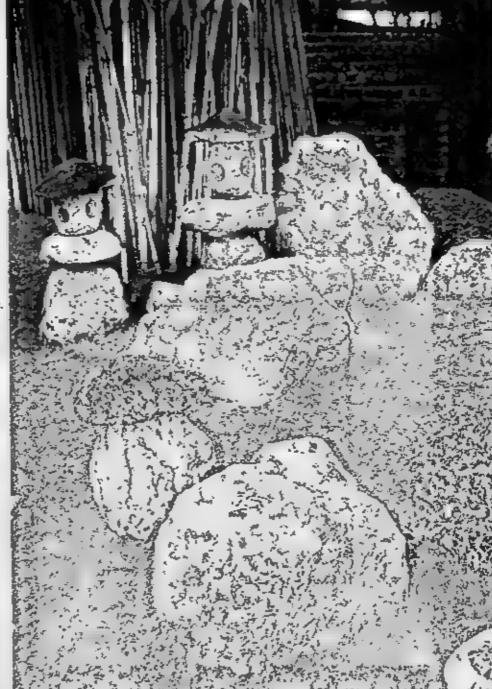
Members of the Natural Stones Society of the Philip-

pines will turn green with envy when they see the tremendous assortment of "living" four own term for the stones that come alive with color and sheen when soaked in water) stones in lnos' garden and showroom.

Won't they eat their hearts out all the more

when they find out the stones come from local Landscaper Lorenz Inos has transformed his mountaininspired garden into a 'stonescape'

ONLY a geologist can tail the age of this garden monolith.



sources?

"Weathered stones are everywhere, just waiting to be picked up and admired. I found my pieces, for instance, on dried up streambeds, along the rivers, at the foot of the mountain, abandoned quarry sites, and out there in the fields," inos said. As in the past, he hiked to the mountains to get new ideas for his landscaping projects.

The array of natural stones and rocks that greeted us in the garden of lnos was a relaxing sight for our tired eyes and aching limbs, battered as we were by the four-hour trip from Makati to Talavera

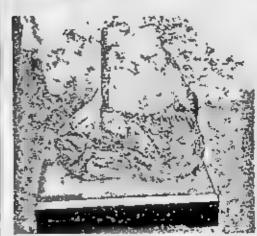
The stones' uses in the garden were as varsed as their forms, textures, sizes and colors. Under the bonsai trees, for example, were oriental lanterns carved out of Mr. Pinatubo rocks. They added touches of oriental charm

to the dwarfed collos and balete trees.
We tried walking barefoot on slabs of rocks that were half-buried in the blue grass lawn. This may sound strange but we felt warmth seeping through the soles of our feet, a soothing balm indeed to our much abused limbs.

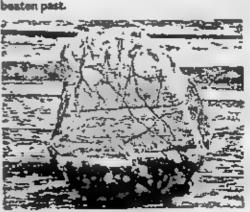
"Don't be surprised, the earth stones absorb the heat of the sun," Inos explained. We also noted a set of stepping stones called piedra ilocos.

Also at various spots were river pebbies called siete colores and kudo. They were fascinating accents to the otherwise monochromatic pattern of ornamental plants in pocket gardens. We also found them at the edge of ponds, at the bottom of waterfalls, along the fence and walls and, surprisingly, on a candy dish at the center of a coffee table at the ve-

"Rubbing these pebbles is relaxing and makes you forget your cares and anxiety," Inor said as he handed us a rounded pebble



PIECE of rock tells story of its weather-



ROCK has telitale marks of the geologic changes it went through.

with earth colors and markings of a batik cloth. "Spa theraputs heat pebbles in aromatic oil and rub them on the skin of patients for a toning effect also," he added.

As we inspected the other pebbles in the candy dish, we discovered that each piece was a work of art, no two designs were alike, "Nature forces have created their interesting forms, colors and textures in the course of many many years," inos explained.

He pointed out there really was no substitute for patural stones and rocks in a garden landscape. "There is no sansfaction better than searching for them in the field, bringing them home, cleaning them up and finding a place for them in the garden," he added

at the garden supply

landscaper Lorenz

warehouse of

For those who don't have the luxury of time or patience for field hunting, he advised, "selections of natural stones and rocks can be found at landscaping supply stores and at gravel and sand yards."

To visit Lorens Inos' stonescaped garden and natural stone collection, text him at 0918-5103412 or e-mail rensinos@digitelone.com



LANDSCAPER Lorenz ines and client Precy Reeby in the latter's stonescaped garden

GRAY and white rocks in wooden cart steals the scene from a root-clad old rock in the garden.



WEATHERED by forces of nature, these

rocks developed white marbling design.

Warmer oceans are shrinking glaciers

REENPEACE, a worldwide environmental advocacy organization, sent us recently a paper on climate change.

As we all know, climate change is closely linked to global warming and, in fact, the two are often used interchangeably. We hear and read about climate change often but may not fully grasp its implications because they are multifaceted.

Greenpeace's studies show that the most dramane evidence of climate change at present can be observed in snowy regions with glaciers and ice sheets whose ecosystems are being affected by temperature changes.

"Glaciers around the world," Greenpeace reports, "are already shrinking, threatening wildlife and water supplies (as) warmer ocean temperatures transport large amounts of heat to coastal Antarctics."

Such changes in temperature result in an imbalance that can only disrupt the climatic system.

Greenpeace's concern is bolstered by an ACIA (Arctic Climate Impact Assessment) report that "global warming is heating the Arctic almost twice as fast as the rest of the planet in a thaw that threatens livelihoods of millions of people, and could wipe out polar bears by 2100." The ACIA survey, incidentally, was funded by countries immediately concerned—United States, Canada, Russia, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

(Another news report, this time from Friends of the Earth, adds the Himalayan region and Mount Everest to the sites endangered by climate change.)

Melting glaciers

In this connection, a passage from Antonio S.

Store offers feng shui accessories, charms

A ONE-STOP feng shall bounque has opened at the Ortigas business district.

The World of Feng Shui's (WOPS) flagship boutique in the Philippines is on the ground floor of The Podium.

WOFS cames a wide collection of feng shut lucks, charms, cures and enhancers, as well as auspicious art and gift items. A corner is declicated exclusively to the latest books of Lillian Too, WOFS founder

The ceremonies started with the blessing by Rex Venancio Silva, OSJ. Authentic crystal singing bowls and seven meta, bells from Malaysia were used for the space clearing ceremony to create plenty of fresh energy inside the bourique.

Former Miss Universe Gloria Diaz, an avid feng shui practitioner, cut the ceremonial ribbon with WOFS Phils. Inc. president and chief executive officer Marites Allen. Nick Allen, WOFS Phils. Inc. char, unveiled the floor compass.

The Allens ned charms to the door and vigorously rang WOFS' singing bells before the guests entered. Among those present were SM vice president for leasing Daisy Tan Chua, Ng Chin Fei of SM Keppel Land Inc., National Bookstore founder and president Socorro Ramos, Ric Charick from the Asian Development Bank, Steven Tan, Allan Brosas and Michael Chan of The Podium, Rotary Club of Pasong Tamo president Al Perez, CCJS Law Office partners Elpidio Jamora Jr. and Benjie Somera Jr., friends from the American Women's Council of the Philippines, British Women's Council of the Philippines and In Touch Foundation.

Inside the store, the WOFS's signature dragon and globe scroll plaque were unveiled. Nickque Tan, WOFS.com franchise director, explained the ceremony represented the awakening of the dragon once a bright light was shone upon it, which as a result will bring powerful and auspicious yang chi to the entire boutique.

Highlight of the event was a balloon ceremony, with burgundy and gold balloons containing the guests' handwritten wishes which were released into the sky, supposedly an effective way of communicating with the Sky Dragon, which has the power to propel all wishes.

Check out the stylish Zodiac animal jade charms at the World of Feng Shui, the newest attraction in The Podium that are believed to ensure good support and luck. Also, earn how to make 2005 a rewarding year with the 2005 Almanac and the Horoscope Book.

WOFS is open daily 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Monday to Thursday and 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday to Sunday The store also offers feng shui consultation by appointment.

WOFS Philippines is the 20th WOFS.com franchisee, which now has 30 outlets in 11 countries.



THE WOFS boutique façade embellished with burgundy and gold trimmings

SEEING GREEN ... Doris Gaskell Nuyda

Oposa Jr.'s book, "The Laws of Nature and Other Stories," may explain the matter further: "A great amount of the world's fresh water supply comes in the form of ice from glaciers. Scientific findings reveal that these glaciers are melting fast and the cause is the increase of Farth's temperature. In turn, this melted ice can cause either massive floods or droughts. Part of this unpleasant picture are the storms and typhoons that seem to occur more frequently."

To understand the causes of climate change and global warming, one has only to revert to studies on air pollution, about which much has been said and done (though still not enough), and the effects of carbon doorde emissions on the air we breathe. Greenpeace, however, must now stress their alarming effects on our lives.

One such impact is "extreme weather" which has a wide range of effects—economic (ex. insurance costs), social (ex. loss of life) and environmental (ex. loss of habitats), thus requiring more extensive study since they are occurring more frequently.

One clear indication of extreme weather is the rise of sea levels. And this has led some scientists to come up with findings with apocalyptic undertones. Losses cited are not just polar bears but entire countries that could be swallowed up by rising

in warmer regions, one evidence of global warming is coral bleaching. Coral reefs in propical waters are affected by changes in ocean temperatures. Since coral reefs are habitats to a wide variety of marine species, think of what such loss would mean to all those creatures.

Those depending on the reefs are not just fish and aquatic life but humans who make a living out of them as well. There will be need, therefore, to focus on the Pacific, especially the Great Banter Reef, and waterways around it.

individual effort

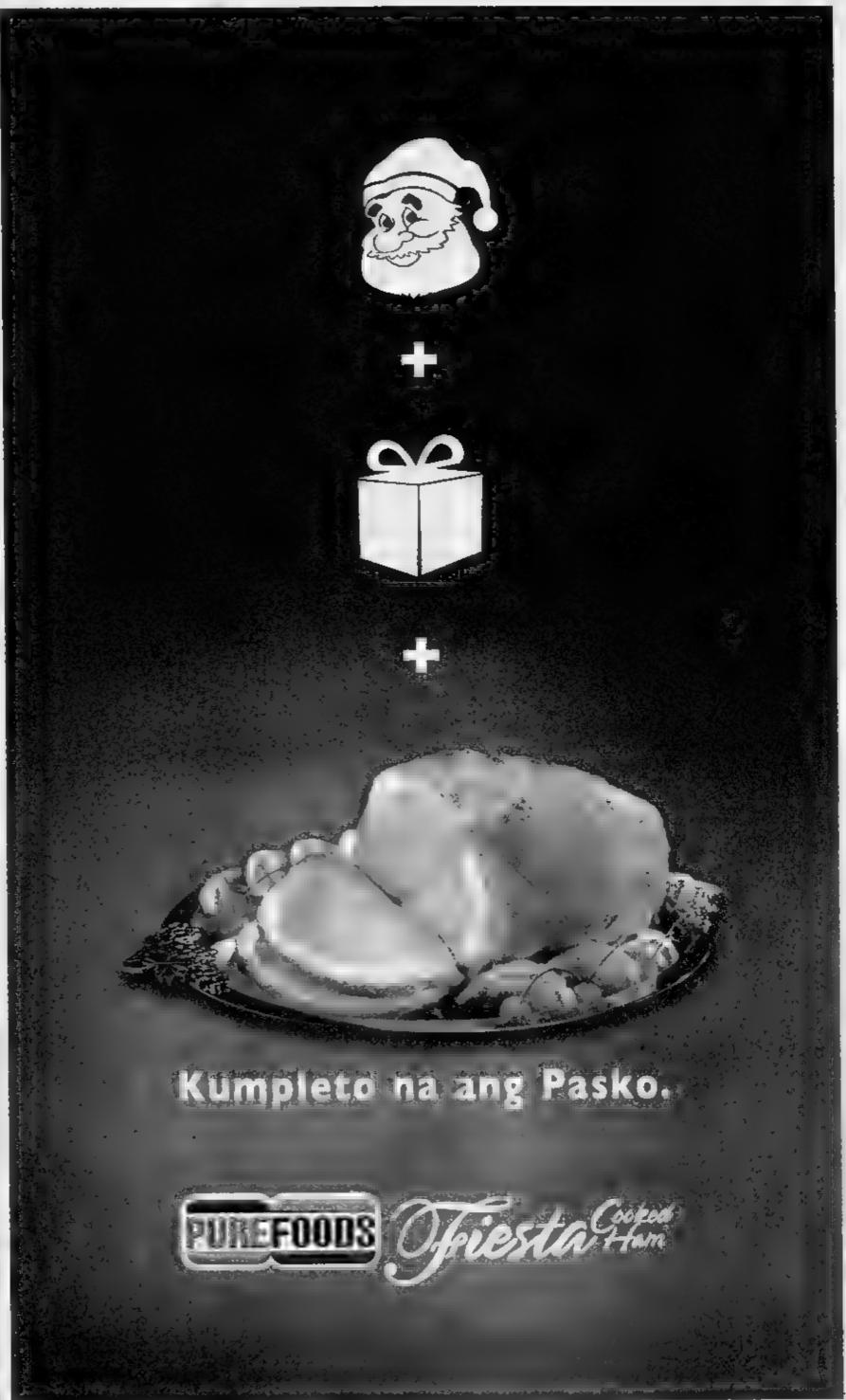
Greenpeace and other concerned agencies are not making the reports to scare people, although if anything goes wrong with our ecosystems, we have reason to fear. But no, this is not the aim of our environmentalists; rather it is to seek solutions to restore the balance in our chmatic system.

What can be done? While the impacts have global effects, each region or country is encouraged to do its individual part to reduce the causes of climate change/global warming.

For the student or neophyte environmentalist, there is literature available with information on how to eliminate, or at least reduce, those causes. It is a simple matter of requesting information from such agencies as Greenpeace (e-mail athenar@dialb.greenpeace.org or gduram@ph.greenpeace.org) or Linis Ganda, which suggests planting of trees as a way to offset global warming (c/o Narda Camacho, tel. 4100383/4487835 or Cocap c/o Ester Perez de Tagle, tel. 9266655).

E-mail the author at dorismoyda@yahoo.com.

The most dramatic evidence of climate change can be observed in snowy regions



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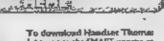
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Text and photos by Gibbs Cadiz

THEN we think of the oldest university in Asia, old er even than Harvard in the United States, the distinction automatically goes to the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, found ed in 1611 by the third Archbishop of Manila, the Dominican Msgr. Miguel de Benavides.

UST was a Western-style ecclesiastical school, built along the lines of the mighty European seats of learning that began with the establishment of the University of Bologna in

The "Western-style" qualifier is an important distinction, because in Asia, a far older university rooted in Confucian history and tradition was aiready functioning by 1076 A.D. This was the Van Mien-Quoc Tu Giam (The Temple of Literature-School for the Sons of the Nation) in the ancient city of Hanoi, Vietnam.

Today, the Temple of Literature still stands, a well-preserved oasis of serenity and contemplation in a busy part of the country's modern-day

And while it has ceased being a university, it still draws many scholars, thinkers and artists who seek wisdom and kinship in its anonuments

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THE WALKWAY at the center of the Great Middle Courtyard, with lanterns along the side that are lit at night

Shrine to ancient wisdom

quest for higher education among the early

The temple itself was established in 1070

A.D. as a shrine to Confucius. Six years later, the reigning monarch, Ly Nhan Tong, opened the

country's first university inside the temple

grounds. Members of the royal family made up

the first students, followed by the sons of the

moners who passed regional examinations, al-

lowing for the possibility of social mobility

Eventually, the school was opened to com-

The students, from 15 years old and above,

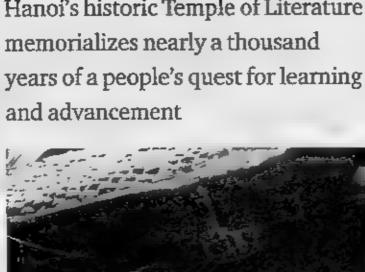
Vietnamese.

anstocracy.

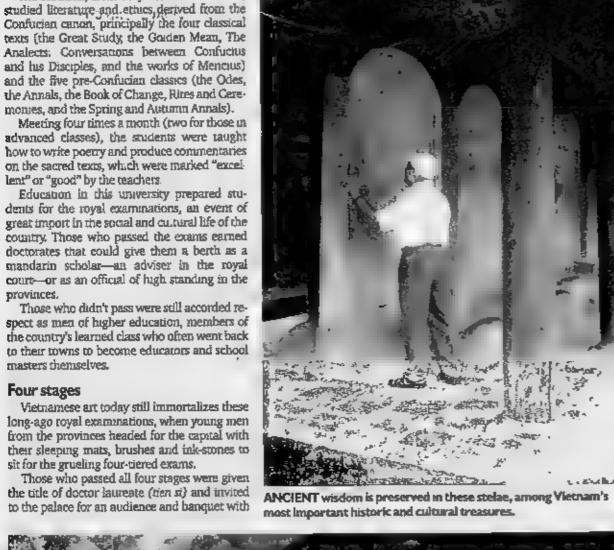
through scholastic ment.

Royal school

Hanoi's historic Temple of Literature memorializes nearly a thousand years of a people's quest for learning







SOME 82 surviving stellar record the names and villages of around 1,306 students from 1076-1779 AD who passed the four-tiered royal examinations to earn for themselves the title of tien si, or doctor laureate.

the king. They were then sent borne with great fanfare to their villages, where they were received with much pride.

In a given year, some 450 to 6,000 candidates would vie for the doctorates. The last royal exammations were given in 1779, and by that time, 2,313 examinees had been awarded lau-

Around 1,300 of these names (and the villages where they came from) are recorded in 82 surviving stone slabs called stelae in a garden of the present-day temple.

The Garden of the Stelae is found in the third courtyard of the Temple of Literature. At its center is a square pond called the Well of Heavenly Clarity Arrayed amund this pond are pavilions that shelter the stelae from the elements.

The pavilions themselves, while bewing close to the complex's ancient architecture, are restored versions of the original structures that had withered away with the centuries or were damaged by war

These stelae and the entire temple area have been designated as among Vietnam's most important historic and chirthan treasures, ret ord nary visitors are still allowed to go up to the stelae, touch the slabs and read the inscriptions on them, to learn from the preserved wisdom of the country's forebears.

Stylized spaces

All five temple courtyards (Entrance to the Way, the Great Middle Courtyard, Garden of the Stelae, Courtyard of the Sages, and the school grounds in the fifth courtyard) are stylized spaces with pavilions, gardens, ponds, doors and walloways reflecting Confucianism's ideal number and its dedication to the pursuit of yinyang-balance and harmony in the universe as expressed through indigenous Vietnamese art and design.

Each gate or doorway in the temple symbolrzed entry to a higher piane of knowledge and consciousness, until one came to the inner sanctum of the temple, where an elaborate dragonred altar to Confucius stood.

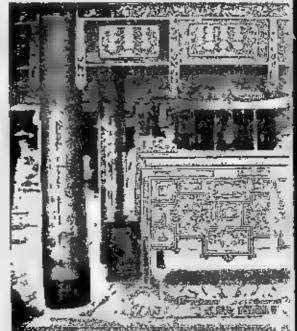
The alray still extant today, is the heart of the temple, and it is reached by passing through the lantern-decorated Courtyard of the Sages, where the king and the new doctor laureates would gather before paying their respects to images of the great teacher and his disciples.

Viernam has done away with us monarchy and the royal examinations, but the courtyard is still used for ceremonial dances during the Tet (lunar new year) holidays, and even for live chess games.

Looming over the entrance to the third courtyard is perhaps the temple's most striking piece of architecture, the two-story Khue Van Cac, or Pavilion of the Constellation of Literature.

its base has four brick pillars engraved with cloud designs that support a second floor made

the Stelae. Built in 1805, It is an ode to the edifying na



THE ALTAR to Confucius



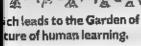
CONFUCIUS, whose teachings formed the core of the university's curriculum



THE COURTYARD of the Sages, which leads to the heart of the temple where an alter to Confucius are

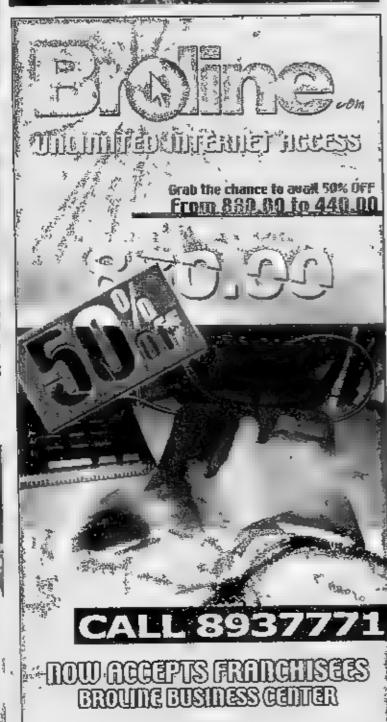












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VAN Mieu's grounds are an oasis of serenity and contemplation in a busy part of modern-day Hanol. of wooden frames. The round open windows on this floor are adorned with sun-like rays and face all four directions—like a jewel radiating light or a vessel open to the four winds.

Built in 1805 under the Nguyen Dynasty, it is an ode-like the rest of timeless Van Mieu-to the all-encompassing, illuminating value of knowledge and literature in human affairs.

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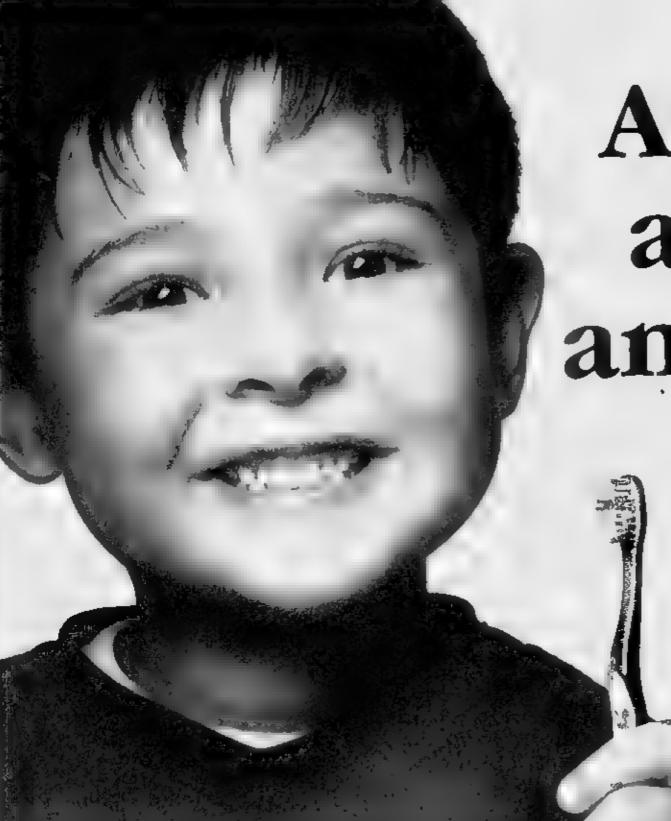
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Sun-kissed Toscana and Umbria

It sure was great, even for just ; a while, to experience life under the Tuscan and Umbrian sun



SIDE street in Spoleto lined with hydrangers and lavender

Contributor

have extelled the beauty A of Toscana, but perhaps it as author Frances Mayes, who wrote "Under the Tuscan Sun," and the commercialized movie version starring Diane Lane, that made Toscana accessible to everyone, Sudden.y, it has become a fantasy to visit the place

When Mayes got divorced, she packed her bags and bought a farmhouse in Toscana. I'm neither a divorcee nor with enough funds to buy my own farmhouse, but these didn't stop me from doing the next best thing—rent a farmhouse and experience an authentic, sun-kissed Tuscan rural

A few kilometers from the heart of Firenze, or Florence, is l-the small town of Imprimete in and salabin formaggio, countrythe wine producing Chianti area. Here you will find the Ipini Azienda Agricola, which opens its doors to wayward souls looking for some nature, culture and hos-

A huge vintage wooden barrel shows the way to Ipini's butter which we did by touring the other yellow farmhouse. The sign areas of the farm, all twenty proudly announces the farm's hectares of it. The amazing thing treasures—vino, olio e miele

(wine, oil and honey). The owner, Signora Laura Corzani, warmly welcomes visi- where they store their vino tovolo tors. You can check in at any of Ip- rosso e bionco (red and white

Text and Photos by Paul Henson ini's rooms (each named after a flower; ours was Margherita) with double beds, bathroom and RTISTS, writers and poets a private terraza with a splendid have extolled the beauty view of the Tuscan landscape stretches of vineyards, olive orchards, lemon trees, wild flowers, with a solitary house in the distance, the only sign that another soul exists here other than you.

For big families, there are apartment type accommodations with wooden furnishings, two double bedrooms, bethroom, kitchen, fireplace and terra cotta

Hearty breakfast

Before I could sink into the laid-back rural life, Laura ushered us to the common dining area where she had prepared a hearty breakfast—a selection of cured meats like prosciutto crudo style brown_iread, jams and hazelnut spread, torto di melle (apple cake), fresh peaches and apricots, all downed with cappuccino and freshly squeezed succho arancia (orange juice).

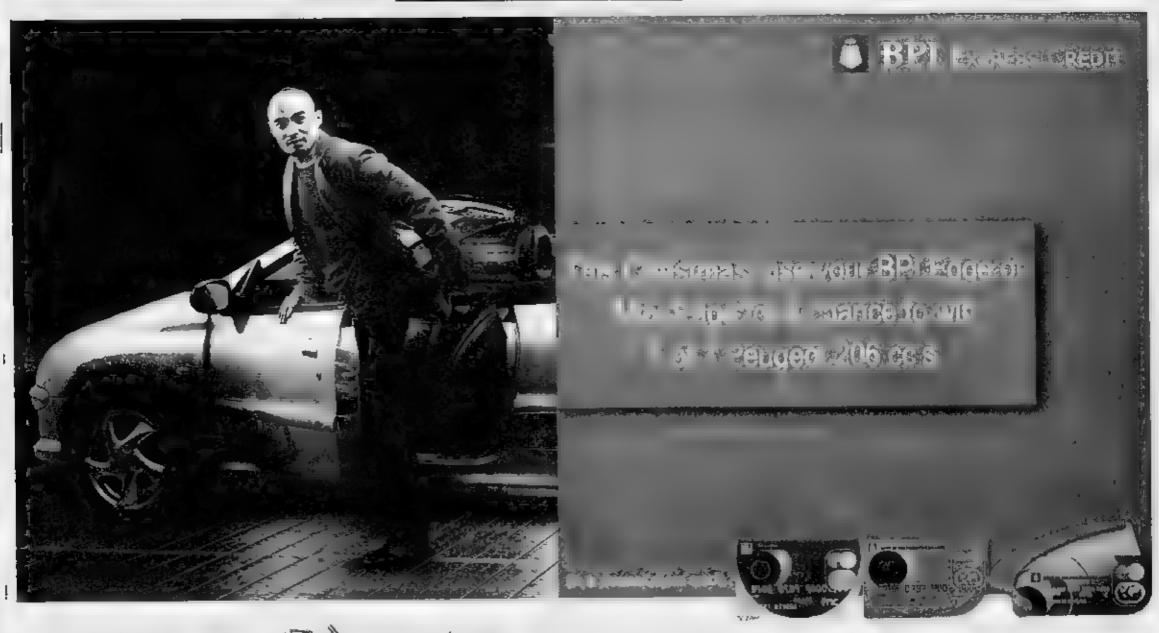
That's a lot of energy to burn, is, Laura runs it with the help of only her father and an assistant!

Laura brought us to the cantina

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THE WARM butter-yellow facade of Ipini's main house

Sun-kissed AN ANCIENT passageway in the town of Spoleto n Toscana and Umbria

From page G1

table wine) in huge aluminum barrels She says these are produced using the farm's harvest of Sangiovese, Trebbiano and Cabernet grapes, all typical of the Chianti area.

The farm also produces vin sunto, a fortified wine, using raisined Malvasia grapes which, Laura says, is best served with biscotti.

The signora is also proud of Ipini's abundant harvest of olives. She says these are pressed in a traditional oil mill, giving a top quality olio di oliva extravergine (extravirgin olive oil)

You can buy these products from the farm. A bottle of table wine for 3 50 euros, vin sunto for euro 8.50 and a liter of olive oil for 12 euro (1 euro is equivalent to about P68). A bit more pricey than those in groceries, but definitely of traditional quality. We bought two cartons of vino rosso to give away as gifts.

My family and I wanted to explore other regions as well. After all, Toscana isn't the only place in Italy with rustic panoramas and delightful treasures to discover. So we traveled by car to the region of Umbria in the province of Perugia, in search of Spoleto, a Romanesque town with old castles, fortresses and arcades.

We stayed in a honeybee farm that of fered bed and breakfast, the Albergo Ville Cristina, ran by husband and wife, Signor Angelo Banconi and Signora Ana Mana Capoccia. The main house is painted a vibrant peach, with a gazebo look ing out to the mountains.

Villa Cristina is a family-run business as well. Angelo is a carabinisti (military police) who decided to grow honeybees after retirement. He now has 700 colonies and produces several varieties of honey like trifoglio, acacia and the thick and dark-colored melata, each with a unique and natural flavor depending on the flower that the bees feed on

Angelo takes care of the processing of the honey while his teenage son does the bottling and packing. Ana Maria takes care of the bed and breakfast.

Captivating sights

While in Spoleto, we drove to the nearby towns of Spelo and Montefalco



VIEW of the mountains in Spoleto

for more sight-seeing. Spelo is an enchanting ancient town set high on a mountain. Its narrow, winding and rolling streets and passageways, lined with hydrangeas and lavender, are truly

Montefalco boasts of small shops and delicatessens selling an assortment of food items from hand-rolled pastas, fruits and vegetables, salad oil, batsamic vinegar, cheeses and liquor. Perhaps the most exotic is the tartuffo or truffles.

It's amazing that these dark, wrinkled and unremarkable-looking fungi, found anderground, are quite expensive because of their rarity. A kilogram of the common black variety costs 120 euros, stronger flavor and an equally-powerful

anywhere from 500-1,000 euros per

kilogram! This delicacy is used to flavor a variety of dishes, some of which I was fortunate to sample. For appetizers, I had crostini. con tartuffo, toasted rustic bread topped with black truffles, grated garlic and olive oil; and fritata con tartuffo or white truffle omelette. The print plati or first plate was spaghetti with black truffie

The way I could describe the taste of black truffle is that it has a very delicate, earthy, organic flavor, a cross between a put and fresh corn. Where truffle has a

while the more exotic white truffle runs - smell (some say it smells like kerosene). Definitely an acquired taste.

Since fresh truffle is way too expensive, we bought the truffle condiments instead. A small bortle of white truffle oil costs 4.50 euros, while a tiny jar of black truffle paste costs about 11 euros. A taste of Italy to bring back home.

It's probably going to take a lifetime to completely appreciate all the nuances, traditions, cuisine, places and people in Umbria and Toscana. I remember asking Signora Laura how much it would cost to buy my own farmbouse and perhaps relocate in Toscana. She says an uncultivated piece of land will cost 25,000 euros per sqm, and three to five million euros for a house.

It seems I won't be buying my own farmhouse anytime soon. But it sure was great, even for just a while, to experience life under the Tuscan and Umbman sun



crudo, salami, country-style bread, formoggio, apple cake, biscotti, Jams and hazelnut spread



VILLA Cristina's gazebo



TUSCAN landscape

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The resort has a whole range of activities to keep guests busy such as water sports (jet sking, sailing, water biking, snorkeling) at Greg's Waterworld; and spa and massage services (reflexology, Shiatsu/Swedish body massage, hand and foot therapeutic spa, and complets salon services) at the Wellness Center at vary reasonable prices. Discounts are given to those avail-

ing of the package.

White Rock also has bowling lanes (10-lane ten pin) and badminton courts. A new restaurant on the beach is scheduled to open this month. Kids will have lots of play areas. Lifequards constantly mortion the kiddle poals to ensure the swimmers' safety. Patrons who wish to enjoy White Rock on a long-term basis---one or two years---can avail of the two-in-one VIP Privilege Card offering numerous benefits such as discounts and special treats.

To know more about the VIP Priv-Rege Card and/or for room reservations, car 6876139/41 or fax 6876136 or 4212781/82. You may also visit www.whiterocksubtc.com.

Holiday party offers for groups

SEVEN Suites Hotel Observatory in

Antipolo has Special Christmas Party Package. Cristina Yap, sales and marketing manager, said the package was made for groups wanting to celebrate the Christmas season free of hassies. The package, designed for companies, associations, organizations, and classes, is available for groups of from 50 to 300. Prices range from P400+ to P700+ per person. The package includes the use of the function room for five hours; buffet dinner or lunch with one round of iced tea, sode battled beer; party table centerpiece; and videake use. Corkage fee is waived for four regular-sized bottles of wine. Also part of the package is alt overnight stay for two in the Star Suites, Mythical Suites or Romance Suites with complimentary breakfast. Guests can peek through the high-powered telescope of the hotel with the assistance of the m-house astronomer. Seven Soltes has ample parking space for guests. It can provide an acoustic band for a minimal charge Seven Suites Hotel Observatory is at Hollywood Hills Subdivision, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City (across Valley Golf Country)

والمستورية والمراجع والمراع والمراجع وا

Hotel has Christmas Season packages

Club), Call 4266476 or 9268985.

THE RICHMONDE Hotel offers intesistible room rates Dec. 11, 2004 to Jan. 9, 2005. Get value-for-money. with the hotel's Christmas Season packages. You get great discounts when you stay overnight and even lower rates when you book for a three-night stay. The special hoëday room rates start at P2,200 for an overnight stay in a deluxe room, P2,600 for a junior suite, P3,000 for a one-bedroom suite and P4 000 for a two-bedroom suite. Enjoy bigger discounts when you stay for three consecutive nights. You may also stay for two nights and get a gift certificate for your third night (valid unfi March 31). At P6,000, you may

avail of the three-night package for a deluxe room---P7,000 for a jumor suite, P8,000 for a one-bedroom suite and P10,000 for a two-bedroom suite. All rates are inclusive of buffet breakfast, complimentary use of the Health Club facilities like the indoor pool and steam and sauna ropens, and 10-percent discount on all services at Head Zone, One- and two-bedroom suites have kitchen and diomo facilities. Make The Richmonde Hotel your holiday getaway with family, friends and loved ones, and get a chance to win exching trips and prizes in the raffle courtesy of The Foreign Post, Maribago Bluewater Beach Resort and Sear, Inc. This offer is available only to local residents and expatriales with Allen Certificates of Registration only Gall 6387777

Budget Christmas party package

City Saver Hotel in Quezon City Is offering a budget rate for Christmas parties. For only P300-P450 per person, minimum of 30 quests. groups can use the function room for five hours. The package includes a party table centerpiece, videoke set-up, waived corkage for two regular-sized bottles of wine and an overnight stay in a deluxe room with complimentary breakfast for two, convertible to a gift certificate. City Saver has a special package to thank clients this holiday season. Those staying for three consecutive nights in a deluxe room gets a special massage at the Dream Spa. City Saver Hotel now has 46 rooms. The deluxe room is available for P990 white the standard room costs P886. City

Saver Hotel Is at 26 Kamias Road, QC. Call 4266476/ 9268985.

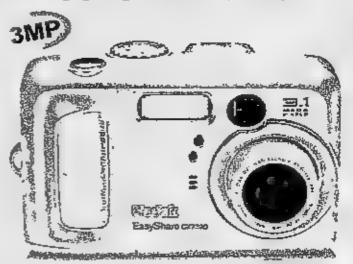
UAE marks founding anniversary

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), a confederation of seven emirates in the Middle East, marked the anniversary of its founding Dec. 2. With a population of around three

million, UAE is the most progressive member of the Gulf (Arab) Cooperation Council that is composed of UAE, Kuwait Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman. Shelkh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, ruler of Abu Chabi, is the new JAE president. He succeeds his late father, Shelkh Zayed bin Sultan At Nahyan, who became the first president of JAE when it was founds, ed in 1971 and ruled the confederas? tion for 33 years.

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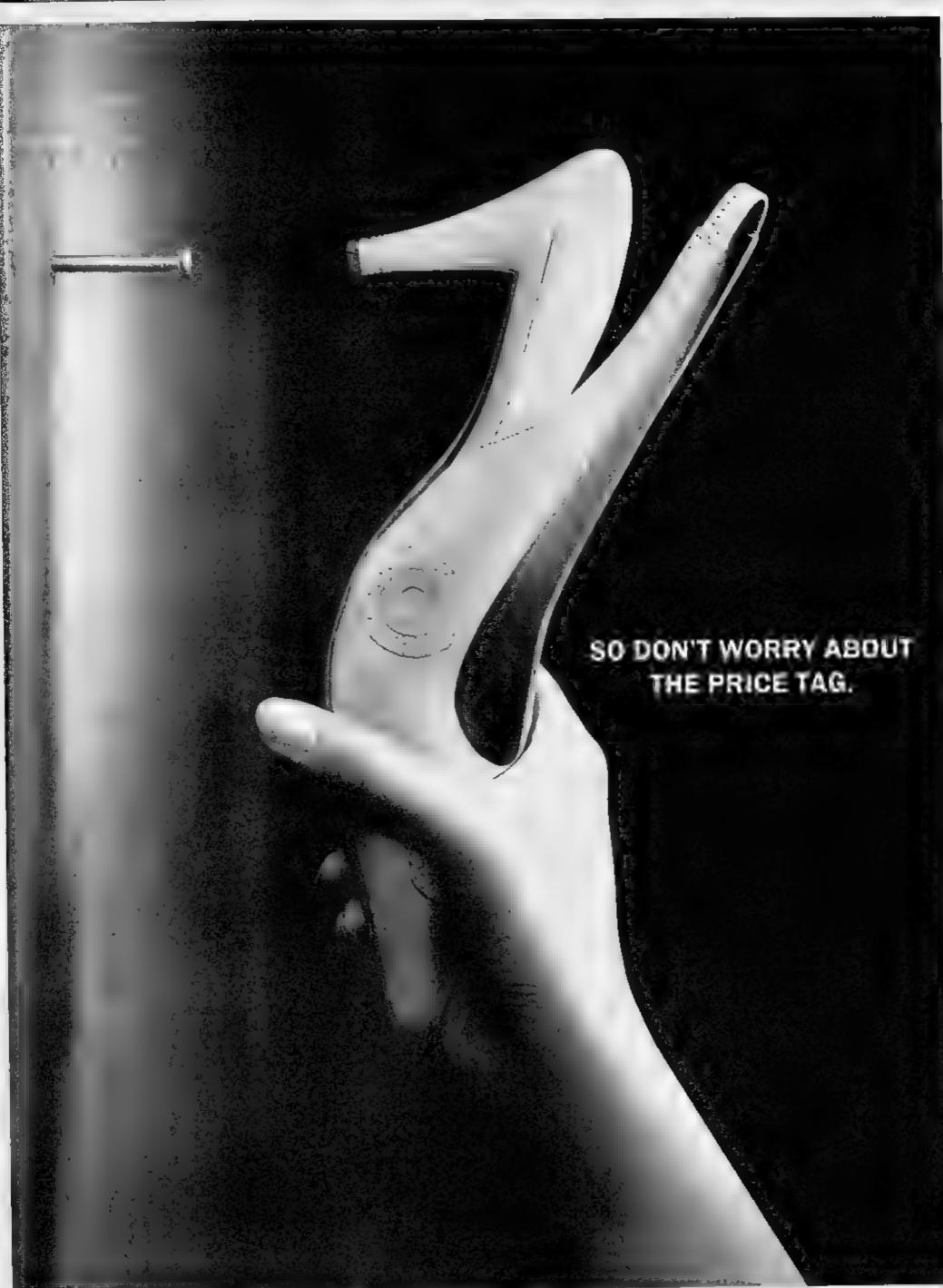
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STANDING: Antonio Abacan, Placido Mapa, Napoleon Abbeva, Dr. George Ty, Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland, and Mrs. Mary Jane Abacan. Seated: Fitzsimon Herrera, Michael Gonzales, Noll Manalang, Florence Cinco, Jaypee Samson, Reynald Mujeres, and Dan Raralio



Mapa, Norma Baja, Lovely Romulo, Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland, Mrs. Mary Jane Abacan, Qr., George Ty and Antonio Abacan

Art competition expands coverage

 Metrobank Foundation has been providing a venue and an opportunity for talentedamateur Filipino artists to gain fame and fortune through its annual national painting competi-

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

has decided that Metrobank Art and De-

Now the

foundation

sign Excelence National Competition 2004 will include sculpture, architecture and interior design.

Winners in the painting (oil and watercolor) competition—Jaypee Samson, Reynald Mujeres, John Paul Castulo, Michael Gonzales, rera-received medalions designed by former YPA (Young Painters Annual) winner Noell El Farol. Entitled "Muta," the trophy was shaped like a rice grain, signify-

ing the harvest of crops. The special award winner received a medallion designed by forconjured light incorporating spiral

and the sun's movements. Winners in the sculpture category were Florence Cinco and Dan

Thank-you dinner

The ever gracious and talented artist and philanthropist Ingrid Sala Santamaria hosted a dunner at her residence for French Ambassador Renee Veyret in appreciation of the honor conferred upon her by the French government, the Chevalier Dans l'Ordre National du Merite.

Among the guests were S.O.S. founder Louis Paul Heussaff and Mme Heussaff; Jose Moreno, a.k.a. Pitoy, Fr Gabriel Casal; Bernard Regnauld-Fabre, deputy head of mission of the French Embassy; Celia Laurel and son Cocoy; my favorite columnist and critic, Baby Orosa; Rupert and Tina Jacinto; and Air France GM Louis Vergeon.

The hors d'oeuvres were enough to feed a small army not to mention the sit-down dinner with champagne toasts that followed.

But the phenomenal part of the evening was Ingrid playing the very difficult and demanding Rachmaninoff Concerto #3, in full, that she had been practicing for the past

■ OR THE PAST 20 years, month (10 hours a day) with Jonathan Coo. She will be playing the classical piece in Manila and in the United States.

Now that's a hostess! Not only did she feed us, she entertained us as well. It's a tough act to follow.

Portuguese pianist

In the mean time, the culturatti members of the diplomatic corps and friends of Portuguese Ambassador Joao da Silva and the charming Mme. Ukike da Silva enjoyed an evening of exquisite classical selections by Portuguese piano vutuoso Antonio Rosado, who played Chopin, Debussy and Liszt, aside from music by Pormguese composers Fragoso and de Freitas during the Portuguese celebration in

Mr. Rosado played his first con-Non Manalang, and Prizzimon Her- cert at the age of eight. He is the first Portuguese planist to perform Debussy's complete preludes and etudes. He has likewise performed Mozart's complete piano sonatas.

Antiquated

Would you believe the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra is still using mer YPA winner Roberto Feleo that the same antiquated instruments from the time of Mrs. Marcos? Well,

> So we have to depend on the generosity of Franco-American artists like Alexandre Charriol, who donated proceeds from his recent painting exhibition at the gallery of the Manila Peninsula to the Cultural Center of the Philippines' trust fund for the purchase of new instru-

Official hosts of the event were French Ambassador Veyret and the Philippine Philharmonic Founda tion. Sponsored by Charriol Rar East, Store Specialists Inc., and Manila Peninsula, and curated by Josette Baisa, the show generated half a million pesos.

The young artist's generosity was overwhelming, which is more than one can say for government's interest in the arts and the fate of the philharmonic. Although greatly influenced by Jean-Michele Basquiat, Charriol's work has a lot of the whimsy of Chagall. Being a very young man, I'm sure we'll be hearing more about this young artist in the future.

We need something like P36 million, that is a little over half a million dollars. Too bad "conversion" money never reaches the arts.



INGRID Sala Santamaria, French Ambassador Renee Veyret, Mrs. Philippe Salud, wife of the French cultural attache, and Mrs. Paul-Louis



METROBANK executive director Aniceto Sobrepeña



PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao da Silva and Mme. Ulrike da Silva with Miss Portugal







LORNA Tolentino and Rudy Fernandez with kids Renz and Raphael



GLYDEL Mercado and Tonton Gutierrex



GEM Padilia and Toni Abad

Luau at high sea

PARADISE was found off Phuket, Thailand Paradise Night, that is. The affair was part of "Famous-The Voyage Parry," on board the Super Star Virgo of Star Crusses.

For its seventh voyage, Pamous sailed back to Singapore, Penang, Malaysia and Phuket, Thailand

After coming back from their Phuket excursion, Famous guests rushed to their rooms to prepare for the luau, Famous style. All came in their own interpretation of "Paradise" and partied all night at Super Star Virgo's Parthenon Pooiside.

Pretty "Starstruck" talent Yasmien Kurdi p and handsome Raphael Fernandez were vot ed as the Mr. and Ms. Paradise. Yasmien wore a belly-baring island midriff, sarong skirt with grass accent, and white and red lei, and Raphael wore his paisley print shart

Hawaiian and other flowered shirts were the in-thing for the night, as worn by marines idol TonTon Gutierrez; billboard staple and bot young thing, Luke Jickain; veseran actor Rudy Fernandez and son Renz; designer Rajo Laurel; photographer Patrick Uy and sons Gregory, Christopher and Timothy; and model Zanjee Marudo.

Award-winning actor Christopher de Leon was in a white shirt that flattered his body, while model Corey Wills matched girifriend Raya Mananquil's bohemian beach chic in

mobicap and gypsy bandanna Most of the girls were either in sarong



DEIN

CHRISTOPHER de Lean



MIKAELA and Gabriel de Leon

water days appearing the

skirts and brief tops, or in scoop-necked, sleeveless shift dresses: drama queen Lorna Toientino, who accented her outfit with a bright red shawl; badminton buddles Carol Francisco, Luz Siguion-Reyna and Rina Aguilar; and Evelyn Uy.

Actress Glydel Mercado had a bright orange sarong as accent, while pink was the coror for these ladies: former beauty queen Gem Padilla, Toni Abad of Essenses, TV host Phoemela Baranda, and model Bubbles Paraiso.

PR guru Keren Pascual, the man behind Pamous, came in green top and flowered shorts, while his assistant, Mark Ang, left the flowers to his shorts, and donned a white top.



MARK Ang and Luke Jickain



YASMIEN Kurdi and Zanjoe Marudo



PARADISE NIGHT. The Famous 7 Cruise participants: (back row) Foni Abad, Rajo Laurel, Tonton Gutierrez, Glydel Mercado, Zanjoe Marudo, Luke Jickain, Rudy Fernandez, Mark Ang; (front row) Rina Aguilar, Luz Siguion-Reyna, Loma Tolentino, Gem Padilla, Bubbles Paraiso, Phoemela Baranda, Raya Mananquil, Corey Withs, Raph Fernandez, Famous organizer Keren Pascual, Yasmien Kurdi and Carol Francisco



PARADISE beauties Bubbles Paraiso and Phoemela Baranda



PHOTOGRAPHER Patrick Uy and wife Evelyn



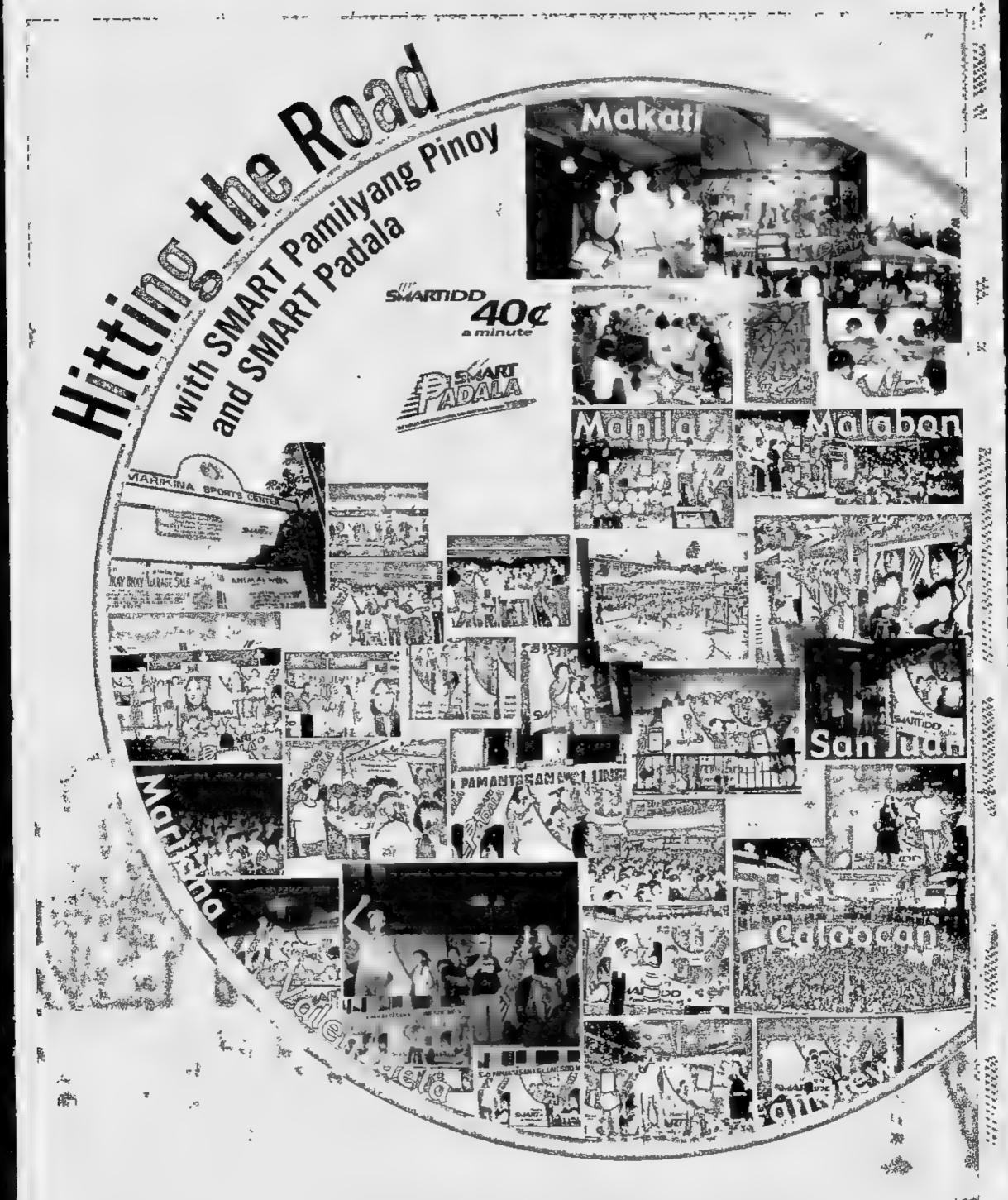
STAR Cruises' assistant sales manager for international sales Ong Kong Hwee and Rajo Laurel



RAYA Manangull and Corey Wills



LUZ Siguion-Reyna, Rina Agullar and Carol Francisco



What better time than the season of giving and sharing should SMART hit the road with its innovative and OFW-friendly service SMART Pamilyang Pinoy? To further create awareness among OFW families and promote the benefits of the SMART Pamilyang Pinoy program, SMART launched a Pamilyang Pinoy Roadshow last August 21 that has taken place every week and nationwide since then

The SMART Pamilyang Pinoy program basically helps SMART subscribers with loved ones working abroad who actively use IDO by offering them free rebates. By keying in REG <name> <address> and sending to 433, OFW families can become members of SMART Pamilyang Pinoy and enjoy these rebates. The more often they use SMART paddition, SMART Pamilyang Pinoy addition, SMART Pamilyang Pinoy

has gone around the country to seek out these OFW families and have treated them to free gifts and now, this Roedshow, Just one of the ways SMART thanks both the OFWs and their families for their noble sacrifices for one another. The SMART Pamilyang Pinoy program began its trek across the archipelago in August, and it might just be heading your way before long

The free entertainment SMART's Parmityang Pinoy Roadshow has been treating its subscribers to are as diverse as Drawing Contests to Singing Contests and special programs featuring celebrities who explain SMART's various programs for OFWs and delight them in the end with song and dance numbers.

The Drawing Contest, which takes place in the mornings, is for grade school students in the resevant areas of the roadshow.

Various mediums can be used for the youngsters to lifustrate how they perceive the given theme: *How telecommunications affect our lives". The creativity and display of a natural flair for art by some students at such a young age is remarkable. The Singing Contest is for older high school students, also from various achools in the participating area. In this case, the song they are asked to perform is the SMART IDD Jingle composed by music maestro Ryan Cayabyab, "Yakap ng Boses Mo". In both contests, SMART gives away cellphones and cash prizes to the winners, as well as cash prizes to the winning schools.

Each roadshow culminates with a 2-hour program featuring the likes of SOP Gigsters, Dang Gruz, Chynna Ortaleza, Brad Turvey and more. Free glits are handed out and free calls are

offered to make them aware of SMART Pamilyang Pinoy and to encourage them to sign up for the service. The whole of Metro Manila has already been covered, with larger areas like Caloocan City, San Juan, Quezon City, Valenzuela City, Marikina City and Makati City drawing in huge crowds.

Another aim of the roadshow is to promote SMART Padala-the world's first international cash remittance through text. The ease and convenience of using SMART Padaia is unmatched. First, simply have your family member abroad visit any of the SMART Padaa Remittance partners abroad. Second, they will be asked to fill out an information sheet which will then be submitted to the cashler along with the amount of foreign currency to be remitted. Third, the beneficiary in the Philippines will receive an assigned SMART Money account number via text.

Fourth, the beneficiary in the Philippines simply has to activate his SMART Money account through his SMART celfone. Fifth, the SMART Padala Remittance Partners abroad will send the cash remittance directly to the beneficiary's SMART Money account. And lastly, all the beneficiary has to do is visit any SMART Padala Center in the Philippines to collect the cash remittance.

Now that Metro Manila has been covered, it's time for the SMART Pamilyang Pincy Roadshow to go nationwide. Standby for some great entertainment and exciting contests for your kids to partake in when SMART hits a town near you





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Where I belong

By Beia Formoso Contributor

NEW YORK-I have come to a con-

Clusion

New York does not impress me. I feel nothing about being here. When I arrived and set foot on New York soil, I did not feel

anything at all.

At first that scared me because I wanted

New York to be that "place" for me—the
place where you would discover yourself,
where you would be at peace, where, even
though you had never been there, you
would feel as if you were coming
home—but it wasn't. And now I know it

isn't, even though I was born here.
I tasked to my friend Anima last week, when I slept over at her place, about my feelings toward New York. She totally

I thought about our friend January and how, when she went to Japan, she was all excited and happy. The plane hadn't even touched the ground and already she was ecstatic

So I tried to think of a place that I soooo wanted to go to and see. And I honestly could not think of any, in that sense. I mean, I would like to travel the world—who doesn't?—but there is no one place that I fee! I absolutely must see.

When January left Japan, she was sad Anima said she felt that way about Paris, she cried and cried when she left that city,

So I tried to think of a place that I had been to that I felt sad about leaving And I couldn't think of any

I have been to a number of places—not a whole lot, but more than most people my age have been to. Yeah, i have some nice memories of bicycling along sunflower fields in Italy, staring into an eternal horizon from a cruise ship, etc, etc.

Singapore is probably the only place I would consider living in if I had to live somewhere other than home. I really liked the cleanliness and the discipline But the times that I had been there, I never felt sad about leaving Singapore at a.!

Excited as hell

And then it hit me. The one place that I always feel soudoo happy to go to, that I am excited about and just can't wait to be at is... home. The Philippines

Anima was saying that she liked going home, too, but it's not just that for me. When I am coming home I am excited as hell. I love buying gifts and pasalubong for everyone back home

When I am abroad 1 am always craving for "chickenjoy" and tapa, even if I am only away for a few days! On the plane heading home I am thinking of all these things and can almost taste them

I love talking to Pinoys on the plane, or kahit sa airport pallang. To OFWs especially, because I know they are feeling the same way I am feeling. We talk in Tagalog (even though my Tagalog isn't good) about places and food and family. And it is just wonderful!

At first Anima thought I was just feeling homesick, but I explained as best I could that what I was feeling was more than

Why was I trying to find myself elsewhere when I was myself all along in the Philippines? The girl I had been when I moved there nine years ago wasn't the person anymore who left for New York a few months ago.

Living in the Philippines all this time, little did I know that I was growing into the person I had always wanted to become. And truth be told, I like who I am, I like the person I have become in the Philippines.

The Philippines has been "ir" all along—where I've found myself, where I can live. It is home. And Anima understood that — because of where I'm coming from, Having been born and having grown up in another place, moving to the Philippines was for me what coming to New York is for a lot of people.

A beautiful thing

Another thing that I realized is, there must be a reason that my mom and dad, no matter where they lived or how long they lived there, never lost their sense of home

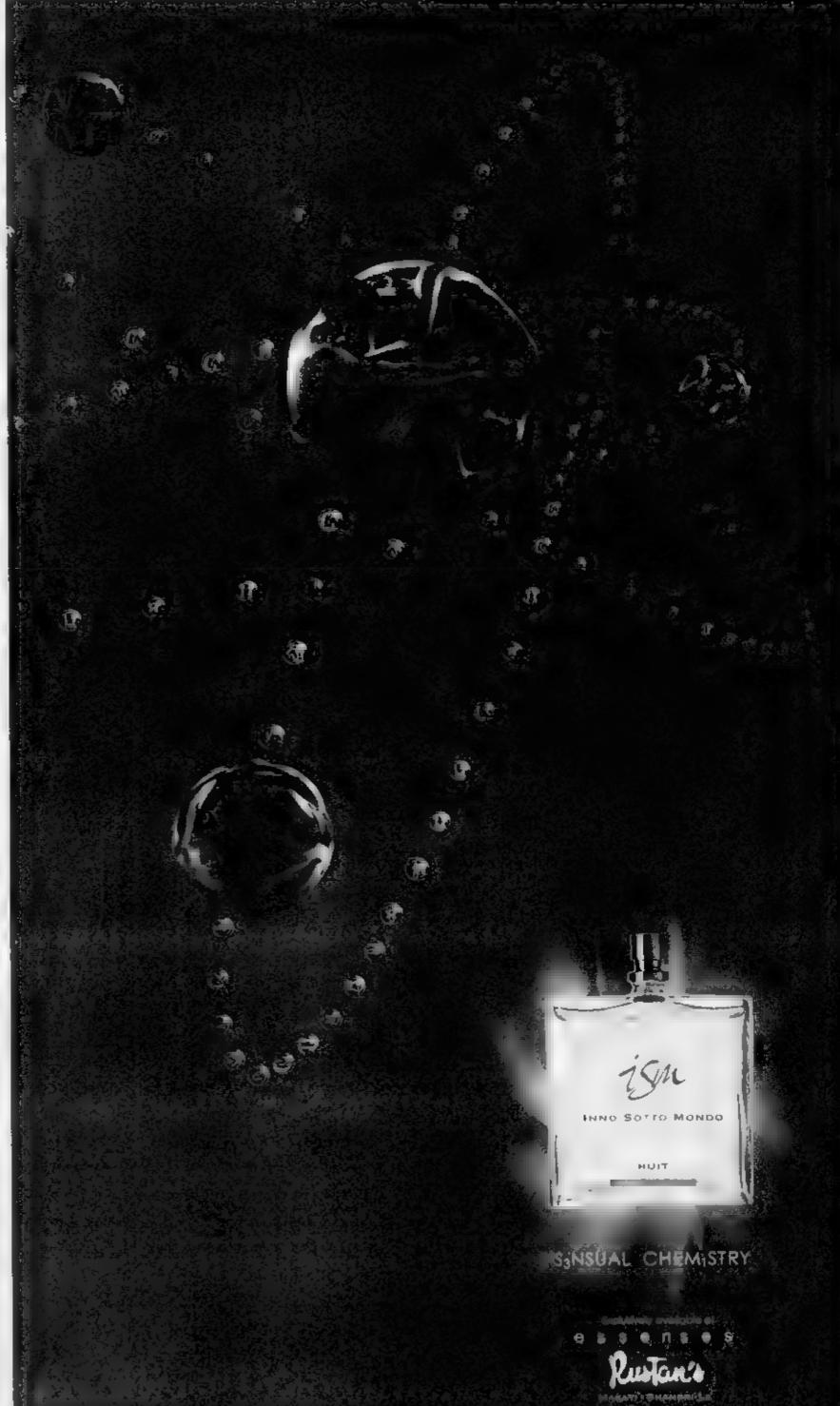
I am totally proud of the fact that they never became American citizens when left and right our Pinoy friends were choosing to give up their Filipino passports. I asked them rather innocently why they didn't do that, and they replied, "Because we are Filipinos." Simply, subtly, that's all there is to it.

When all this dawned on me, I couldn't help but cry. It is such a beautiful thing to realize where you belong, and that where you belong is exactly where you want to be

I had to leave the Philippines and come to New York to find out that I didn't have to leave in the first place. I was home all along.

I had to leave the
Philippines and come
to New York to find
out that... I was home
all along









Navarro with Le Club president



photographers Claudine Sia and



MODELS enjoying art. Corey Wills and Raya Mananquil



ASIAN Spirit couple Toti and Jing



Forbes and kitchen wiz Annie

Parties and charitiesand Frenchmenshould go together

S I look out the window of the 33rd floor studio of photographer Isa Lorenzo, I marvel at the nightscape of the beat Makati skyline. Seeing the view at night from The Fort, at that level, dramatically illustrates our pictureperfect city. If all international planes arrived after sunset, our Frenchmen country would double our tourist visitors.

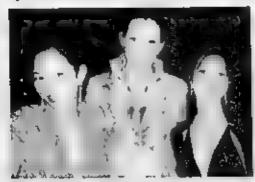
Changing professions in midlife, Dr. Isa gave up her residency at Philippine General Hospital (she was the funky blonde doctor) and moved to New York to try intensive photography, her true passion. Her black-and white photos are forceful and very moving. At her recently concluded exhibit featuring breast cancer, a striking perspective of hope, faith and peace was expressed through her amazing photos.

After missing countless openings due to my prenatal lethargy, I finally caught the photographic exhibit of Claudine Sia featuring folk religion. I have been photographed by the husband-and-wife tandem of Claudine and Neil before, when I did a campaign for Anonymous. In one photo I was covered all over with orange makeup by drama enhancer Eric Maningat, shot behind a loud background. Claudine's artistic eye is quite out of the box and totally refreshing.

check our the art world crowd, always more and all set to be with other style urbanites. eccentric than the usual fashion set. I also wanted to find tips for my single friends-perhaps this might be a possible nesting place of the dying bachelor breed. Unfortunately, only a handful of guests were foreign to me and the rest were my usual gamut of friends, single women and gay men!

Maternity-dress scouting

Half of the crowd was the same pack in the



PREGNANT trio. Leica Carpo, Romina Urra and Jeena Lopez



EXPAT guests Tina Schumacher, Robert de Quelen and Menry Schumacher



EXECUTIVES James Go, Princess Banal and Olivier de la Bernardie



married, and they will surely guarantee a fun evening

Metrowear 2005 Pashion show held last week at ABS-CBN's new ELJ Building. I desperately had to attend that affair even if it was in that end of the woods because I needed to scout around for possible maternity haute couture. Very fashionable Leica Carpo of EOreal also needed to be there since the event also showcased the L'Oreal Vintage Amber Fall-Winter hair trend. Thanks to our extended closet sup-My ulterior motive for attending was to plier, Rajo Laurel, we were outfitted properly

> Earlier that week, creative Rajo had a separate fashion show at the residence of British Ambassador Paul Dimond. His few but important pieces were made from fabrics and weaves from the different regions, mostly Mindanao, an advocacy of former Sen. Loren Legarda. On a personal note, i am just glad i watched the show and discovered more options that I could borrow from Rajo sometime.

> I am a total supporter of our local, very talented designers. The Metrowear show was exceptional, especially the pieces of Rhett Eala and my other "fashion emergency supplier," Patrice Ramos-Diaz. It is wonderful that our designers are able to showcase their creations to boost the local fashion industry.

Together with the show was an exhibit of 2005 fashion accessories by my favorite jewelry crafters, like Butch Carungay, Wynn Wynn Ong and Arnel Papa, to name a few. All of them work away from typical diamond and pearl settings but use unusual materials like semiprecious stones, carabao bone, coral and metal. Since I prioritize my dressing with accessories first, they play an important role in my overall attire.

Accessories-hunting

I was lucky to get a second glimpse of the collection of Wynn Wynn the very next day at the most stylish event of Firma Makati duo, Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo. Dreamstyles was an intimate unveiling of the latest innovations in all my favorite things: jewelry. fashion accessories and mobile technology. Margarita Fores catered and served an excellent menu high ighted by champagne, caviar and roast beef

Though the bejeweled bag masterpieces of Bea Valdes were astonishing, I was concentrating on the salmon tartare, grilled scallops and the entire cheese station. I couldn't peel myself away from the wonderfully decorated buffet table. I almost felt the waiter warning me as I sped past the antipasti speed limit. Of course, I was just paranoid as it had been

awhile since I ate for two. After my hummy could not take in another sliced pear, I had to rush to the other big event that evening, the Soiree Beaujolais at the NBC Tent. The annual French harvest Jestival hosted by Le Club French Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines filled the tent with close to 2,000 guests-mostly expats and wine and



RAJO Laurel creations with Habi fabrics



CLOSE siblings Nikki Teodoro



RETAIL friends Ricco Ocampo and new morn Mandy Santos



FUN designers Vic Barba and



BEAUTIFUL guests of Firma,

Monina Lonez and Nini Licaros

UNILEVER boss Howard Belton with wife Cristina

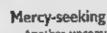




food lovers. The Champs Elysees stage design carried the theme of the night with dance performances by "Lion King" dancer Julie

Alagde and the Airdance This is one event my single guiffiends should attend. Frenchmen have a license to be charming even if married and they will surely guarantee a fun evening. And if the girls don't find anyone interesting, there are always spectacular prizes such as Jewelmer pearls, Raffles Fine Arts furniture, Boracay trips via Asian Spirit (one of which was won but waived by gracious Johnny Litton), a wellness package at The Farm in San Benito courtesy of HSBC and finally, a round trip

ticket to Paris via Air France-KLM Together with accomplished international stage, TV and film actress Pinky Amador and multi-awarded singer and golfer Leal: Navarro, we toasted the organizers for a successfu. night and acknowledged Le Club's support for the scholarship funds for five UP students. Charity should always be integrated into any event. It just makes the affair more meaningful.



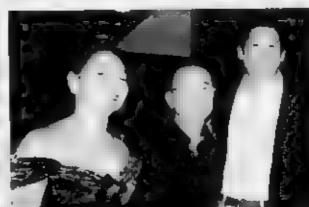
Another upcoming event generating awareness and help is the Phaippines Cancer Society Ball at the Mandarin Hotel this Dec. 7. Aside from honoring 12 inspiring and compassionate style icons, the ball intends to raise funds for cancer research and parient services.

Today my cousins and I, with the help of the many supporters of the LRP Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded by my relatives after the untimely demise of my brother Louie Prieto, are hosting a soup kitchen in a remote area of Taguig City. With all the catamitles hitting our country, we should extend all the help we can give to our less fortunate countrymen. It's the perfect way to start off this Christmas season.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirencom.ph.



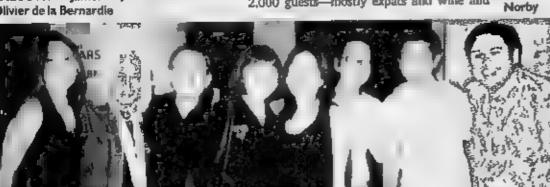
CREATIVE jewelry designer Wynn Wynn Ong and husband



METRO Editor Thelma San Juan, Cesar Gaupo and **Anthony Nocom**



IRENE Araneta



METROWEAR designers Lulu Tan Gan, Ernest Santiago, Philip Rodriguez, Arcy Gayatin, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Jesus Lloren, Dennis Lustico and Rajo Laurel



GORGEOUS couple Archie Rodriguez and Bea Valdes, host Ricky Toledo and Klaus Freund



STYLISH guests Josephine Knox, jewelry designer Arnel Papa and Mia Borromeo

Redemptorists mark 50 years in Bikol

THE REDEMPTORIST fathers will hold a concert at the Baclaran church to mark the 50th anniversary of their arrival in Bikol on Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

On Dec. 9 and 10, the Redeptorists will hold a medical mission and a family advent retreat in Bonga, Legazpi Gity.

The celebration will culminate in the Jubiece celebration on Dec. 11. Theme is "Sarong banggi, sarong tingog run pasasalamat asin pag-amaw sa 50-taon nin nagsusupay na

kaligiasm."

The jubilée celebration will start at 3 p.m. with a procession to commemorate the centennial of the canonization of the Redemptorist youth-saint, Gerard Majella, followed by a Mass at 5.30, and reception at 7.

The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (C.Ss R.), better known as the Redemptorists, first came to the Philippines in Cebu in 1906 and in Manila in 1932 from Aus-

On Dec. 14, 1954, the Redemptorists arrived in Legazpi, Albay, in the Bikol region.

The pioneer team came from Australia and New Zealand. Fr. Maurice Boland was the superior. Of the original Bikol team, Fr. Tom Hodgins is the only living member.

The mission spread in Bikol under the leadership of Fr. Eugene McSweeney who lived in the diocese for 21 years. He was supported by Fr. Michael Keenan, Fr. David Clancy and Fr. Bonifacto Flordenza.

Last year, the Diocese of Legazpi gave a certificate of appreciation to the Redemptorist Legazpi Mission Community for 50 years of "dedicated and unflagging service" to the lo-

Quiz Bee grand finals on Dec. 10

THE 25TH National Super Quiz Bee Grand Finals will be held 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Dec. 10, at the auditorium of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Hotel and Conference Center, in Tagaytay City.

Prior to the finals, participants will have a four-day all-expense paid camp, "Summit of the Super Quiz Bee," Dec. 8-11 at the DAP

Attending the summit are eight representatives—four students and their teacher-coaches—each from the 17 regions

During the finals contestants will compete in the subject categories of elementary "Makabayan" (Philippine history, culture and values), elementary Mathematics, secondary Science and Technology, and collegiate General Information and International Affairs. A total of 10 questions will be asked; two questions for the easy round worth one point each, three for the average round worth two points each and five difficult questions worth three points each

In case of a tie, a clincher round will follow. The first contestant to reach 15 points

The competition does not give cash prizes since, according to Petrizou P. Tayag, vice president and spokesperson of the Quiz Bee Foundation, says they do not think money is a good motivation for students especially in their formative years.

Prizes for winners are the President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo trophies, Quiz Bee Medallions of Excellence, 24 volumes of Collier's Encyclopedia, multimedia computer system, Time Life books, books from the Philippine Booksellers Association Inc., reward packages from Ovaltine Power, Papa Banana Catsup, Uni Writing Instruments, JRS Express, Purefoods Beefies Hotdog, Tetra Pak, Nestle Koko Krunch, Enchanted Kingdom, Fupfilm, Megapix Photo Inc., and Noby Cabanero Photography.

Log on to www.quizbec.net or call 7120682 or 0917-8922550.

Forum on transformation

EVANGELION Foundation Inc. will hold a public forum on Social Transformation entitled "Heal Our Land, Lord... and What Can We do?", 8:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 18 at the Greenbelt chapel in Makati.

Speakers are Social Work Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soltman who will speak on "Social Apostolate towards Transformation" and Bishop Chito Tagle of the Diocese of Imus who will speak on "The Spirituality of Social Transformation." Admission is free.

Mag bags two CMMA awards

BABY Magazine recently bagged two awards from the prestigious Catholic Mass Media Awards.

For the second time, Baby Magazine, now on its ninth year, got a special citation from the CMMA "for focusing on preschoolers and their respective parents; for providing parenting information with emphasis on value formation."

In 2002, Baby Magazine also received a spe-

cial citation from the CMMA.

Baby Magazine columnist Marita Villafuerte

Baby Magazine columnist Marita Villafuerte won the Best Entertainment/Educational column award for her 'I am a child' column which appears monthly in the magazine.

The CMIMA awards came after the successful third Baby Magazine National Baby Congress at the Shangri-La Piaza Mall where 200 babies participated in a cover model search and thousands attended the two-day event.

In the current issue, well-known ob-gyne Rebecca Singson tackles the question: Can-

pregnant women go on the South Beach Diet? Singson's column is a must-read for expectant moms who may have gained too much weight and want to lose the entra pounds even before childhorh.

Villafuerte, in the same issue, addresses the sensitive topic of whether to send a child to a traditional or non-traditional school.

Mayang Sison-Pascual writes about "Getting intimate with your husband" for women who cannot make the first move on their spouses.

Kim Altarejos, a toy specialist, discusses caring for and storing your child's toys, while Dr. Donna Pangilinan-Simpao writes a piece emitled Partner with, learn from and support your

Baby Magazine is available in all National Bookstore outlets, SM Baby Company sections, Baby & Co. at the Podium and Rockwell; and baby specialty shops.

Call 7283655 to 56.

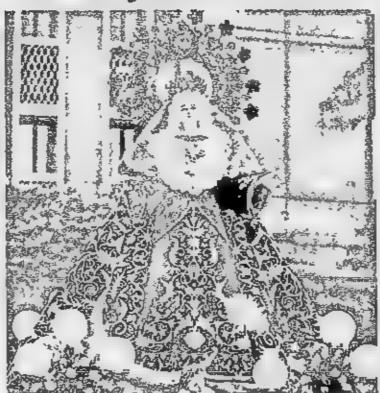


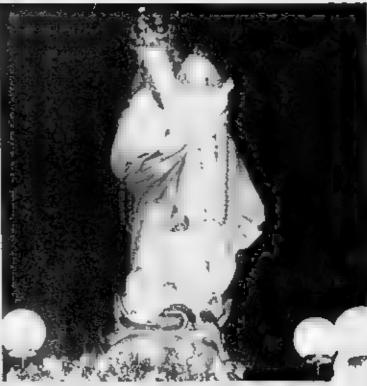


Sunday



NUESTRA Señora del Rosario de Manaoag, from the Our Lady of Manaoag Shrine, Manaoag, Pangasinan





NUESTRA Señora del Rosarlo de Ubanon, from the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Ubanon, Çatbalogan, Samar







A vivid picture with high definition Six-times density enhance

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lagister buy SAMSUNG Product pershaped within 2004 and get a phones of urin a SAMSUNG Digital Comparator. To join tout

25th Grand Marian procession today

MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales will preside over the conceaebrated Hermana Mayor Mass at 2 p.m. in Intramuros.

The Mass precedes the 25th Grand Marian Procession of the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion Foundation to be held at 4 p.m. More than 60 images of the Virgin Mary on silver carrosas bedecked with flowers will join the procession which will start at the Mania Cathedral grounds.

This year's hermana mayor is Imeida O. Co-juangco, founding chair of the Cofradia

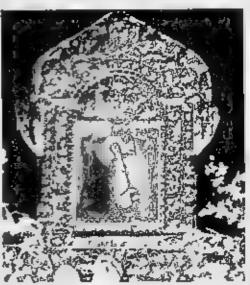
The Cofradia's 25th Grand Manan Procession coincides with the Catholic Church's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the apostolic letter, "Ineffabilis Deus," by Pope Plux IX. The letter declared the Dogma of the Immacutate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, making it an official teaching of the Church.

The Grand Marian Procession was first held on Dec. 7, 1980. It was a revival of a centuries-old tradition in Intramuros observed until the pre-World War II years. After the first procession, the Cofradia was founded, headed by Cojuangco.

tion with the Intramuros Administration and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Also part of the annual tradition was the first holy communion Mass for 500 pupils of the Hermenigildo Anenza Elementary Schoo. in Baseco, Port Area, Tondo. The annual activtry is part of Cofradia's apostolate work in public schools in depressed areas of Metro Manila and neighboring areas. Catechetical instruction prepares 500 school children annually for the first Holy Communion.

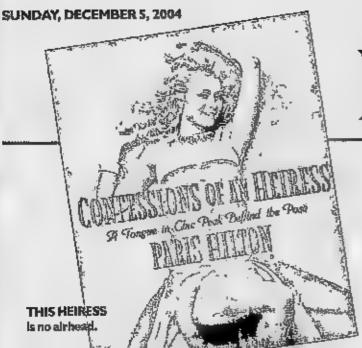
The Cofradia, a private association of Catholic men and women, was given a Decree of Recognition by the Archdiocese of Manila in 2000 through Jaime Cardinal Sin, then archbishop of Manila, Msgr. Jerome Reyes is Cofradia's spiritual adviser.



NUESTRA Señora de Soledad de Porta Vaga,



WHIGE I have been been a lome milities.





disacte, a-mail us at Ofestyle@inquirescom.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Unlike your list of schoolbooks, this reading list

will not elicit yawns

Easy reading for lazy Sundays

POP-UP fun for big kids

By Pam Pastor

The Day I Swapped My Dad For Two Goldfish By Neil Gaiman

ONE night a few years ago, Neil Gaiman scoided his son Michael for not sticking to his bedtime. This did not please little Michael. He turned to his father and said, "I wish I didn't have a dad! I wish I had a goldfish."

spawned Gaiman's delightful children's book, 'The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish." With Gaiman's lyrical text and Dave McKean's rough but charming illustrations, the book tells of a young boy who swaps his father for, yes, two goldfish.

An adult can finish reading the book in 15 minutes but it's 15 minutes to be savored. And if you're embarrassed about keeping a children's book on your shelf, you can always say that you meant to read them to your nephews or nieces.

Neil Gaiman's book is a gem-I wouldn't swap it for even 10 goldfish.

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon, A Pop-Up Book

ter Abrahams

If you think pop-up books are just for kids, Stephen King might just give you a reason to change your mind. He retells the story of his award-winning, best-sealing novel, "The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon," in a dark and entertaining pop-up book.

Nine-year-old Trish McFarland gets lost in the woods while hiking with her brother and recently divorced mother. The scared little gurl's horror grows with every passing minute and she seeks comfort from listening to the game of her beloved Red Sox baseball pitcher Tom Gordon on her Waikman.

It's still the same chilling story-but it's made even more vivid by the work of illustrator Allan Dingman. Like other pop-up books, this book is a lot of fun (yes, you can push and pull tabs to create movement) It's a collectible—not just for kids but for Stephen King fans and grownups who have yet to let go of their inner child.

Queer book

Off the Cuff The Essential Style Guide for Men and the Women Who Love Them By Carson Kressley

Carson Kressley, Queer Eye For a Straight Guy's" fashion sage, put his wisdom down in writing through an engaging, laugh-out-loud funny book

Some writer's personalities translate so well in their words that you can actually hear their voice as you read. Kressley is one such writer. He is every bit as entertaining on print as he is on televi-

Kressley on underwear: "If Spongebob SquarePants or anyone affiliated with Marvel Conucs appears anywhere on your underwear, please get rid of them before some unsuspecting person These were the words that calls the authorities If I find them m your underwear drawer, I might have to dial 1-800-ALARM-

> Kressley on pants: "I hate to see a guy with a really long rise, like when the pants are solid to his knees. Not a good look. But the converse of that is that your pants shouldn't be like a cheap hotel-no ball room. Got it?

Injecting his conversational style with his signature wit, Kressley packs his pages with important tips and guidelines-why you should never wear pleared pants, the seven coats you need, a comprehensive guide to shoes, which socks to wear with which outfit, even the different ways to knot your tie.

This manual will make you By Stephen King, Adapted by Pe- - thank god that Kressley stepped out of the closet and into yours. If he comes out with a book for women, I'll be first in line to buy

Porno's heiress apparent

Confessions of an Hei By Paris Hilton

No, Paris Hilton's book is not just an urban legend. It's as real

as her porn video. But the pretty pink book is more than just a pretty pink book with lots of pretty pictures.

It's an inside look at the life and the mind of the infamous hotel heiress (she's the granddaughter of Conrad Hilton) There's a hilarious guide on how to be an heiress (if only it were that easy) and chapters on her sister Nicky, fashion, beauty, men, her TV show, "The Simple Life," and her beloved Chihuahua Tinkerbell. (Actually, there's a chapter writ-

ten by Tinkerbell.) Here are a few excerpts:

"I'm a fantasy to a lot of people. They want to think that I have more fun than they do, have fewer problems, wake up boking great, go to sleep looking great, can buy and eat anything in the world I want, and get any hot guy I want."

"The people I care about know the real me. If I'm happy with who I am, what difference does it

"There is no sin worse in life than being boring-and nothing worse than letting other people

SARTORIAL CASHCO SUIT, ARTISAN SHOES

Ermenegildo Zegna

OPENING MAKATI BECEMBER 2004

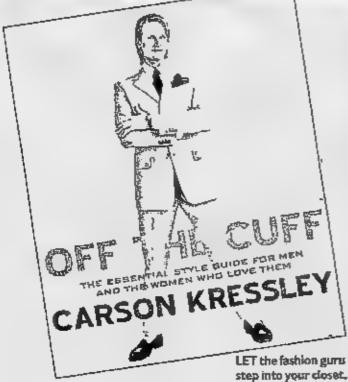
First Level Rusten's Makati Ayala Ave Tel: \$13 3730

Adrien Brody for



STEPHEN King's chilling tale retold ä





Easy reading for lazy Sundays

From page | 1

tell you what to do."

*Put yourself on your own pedestal, and then everybody else will, too."

"A true beiress is never mean to anyone -except a girl who steals her boyfriend."

"Barbie is my total fashion icon!"

Although some passages will make you roll your eyes, she also expresses a few simple but significant truths.

there are times when she sounds like she's living in a completely different world (in a lot of ways, she is) and for almost a couple of hundred pages, you ргансе around in it,

there's one thing this book сап teach you, It's that privileged Ms Paris knows how poke fun at

herself. And in a world where a lot of celebrities take themselves too seriously, that's always a good

Whether you're a Paris fan or you just want more ammunition to make him of her, whether or not you believe that she really wrote it herself, this book's definitely an entertaining read.

Kevyn's gate

Kevyn Aucoin: A Beautiful Life By Kerry Diamond

This is the story of legendary makeup artist Kevyn Aucom, as told through the eyes

of his friends, family and other people who love him. And what a giornous story it is, it traces Kevyn's captivating journey-how he was given up by his 16-year-old mother and was put up for adoption, his small-town childhood and the years he spent dealing with being ostracized by his peers for being gay, his foray into the fashion and beauty industry, his steady rise to becoming someone considered by many as the most beloved and influential makeup artist of

his generation, and even the mystenous sickness that became the reason for his tragic end. Big names in fashion entertainment like Cindy Crawford, Christy Turlington, Naomi Campbell, Janet Jackson, Gwyneth Julia Paltrow. Roberts. Barbra Streisand, Tina Turner and Isabella Rossellini talk about him, his work, his humor, his genus, his beart and his seemingly boundless love for life. Part biography, part-tribute, part-scrapbook and

part-makeup manual, the book is a real celebration of beauty.

Shopaholic and Sister By Sophie Kinsella

WHAT would you

swap your dad for?

Yes, Becky Bloomwood's back-and this time, as Mrs. Luke Brandon, But just when you thought book number four was going to be about married life, Kinsella injects a new twist—a surprising turn of events. What would happen if it turned out that Becky, who

spent her entire life thinking she was an only child, suddenly finds out that she has a sister-and one that's her exact opposite? The result is total chaos. Of course, the shopping sprees and excessive spending are still there-you won't believe her loot from her honeymoon. And just like in the other books, there are times when you'd wish you can dive into the pages, grab the heroine by the shoulders and shake her-but hey, that's Becky Bloomwood for you.

Available at Powerbooks and National Book-

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquir-



isky legiewood i back

OH yes, Becky's still at it.



Cellphones • Digital Cameras • Laptops • PDAs • Music Players

The country's first and only mobile device and technology road show over 8 months in 16 venues nationwide.

Complete your mobile technology lifestyle and get a chance to win cool prizes including an HP iPAQ RX1710. Visit the Buhay Wireless Café nearest you.

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Check out the perfect gifts for your loved ones this Christmas!

Christmas shop like never before.

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Go gadget crazy this Christmas!

Treat yourself this New Year with awesome toys.

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SONY











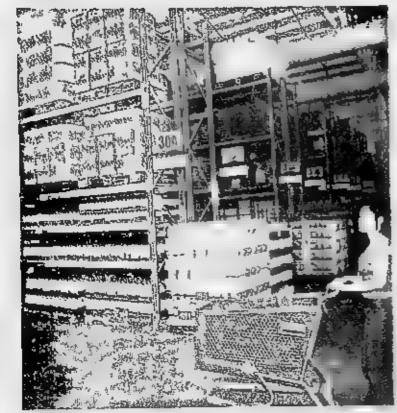












NO-FRILLS warehouse setup that offers consumer items in smallpack sizes, the freshest meats, reduced prices for imported goods—all at no membership fee.



HERE'S to more service at less cost! (From left) Rep. Miles Roces, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, TV newscaster Korina Sanchez, Sen. Ping Lacson, Sen. Mar Roxas, CUL chief operating officer Randy Labrecque and host Tessa Prieto-Valdes

US-style warehouse store in Libis

COST-U-LESS Philippines recently opened along C-5 high-

way in Libis, Quezon City. Cost-U-Less (CUL) combines the system of local hypermarkets with the proneering knowledge, skil, and technology of Cost-U-Less Inc. in the United States, to come up with a unique warehouse store concept.

Edmund Ross Tan Thelmo and Randy Labrecque, CUL Philippines president and chief operating officer, respectively, say CUL is all about providing customers exactly what they want and need at the right price.

"That sounds like a chché, but firsttimers in our store will eventually discover we're teiling the truth," they say.

CUL shoppers get the best deal in town with the widest selection of goods available and with everything sold at the

The store has a 5,000-sq m shopping space packed with every product a household would need, from rice, noodles and sugar to snacks and a broad spice selection, to shampoo, detergents and pet food. Also available are washing machines, pots, pans, and dish sets, bar-

becue gnds, outdoor furniture and toys. CUI's secret to a great selection is that is doesn't duplicate items with every pos-

sible size and variant available. "Our format calls for offering the cus-

tomers multiple brands with selected variants and selected sizes," Labrecque explains. "We may never sell a sachet by itself. Instead we will sell 10-pack sachets in the best-selling variants. At the same time, we will use the expertise of our vendors and buyers to decide the best retail prices to offer our customers. And unlike other warehouse stores which sell items in bulk or huge containers, CUL sells smaller pack sizes, yet the pricing still remains competitive."

CUI's great selection is also made possible by utilizing local vendors. It's a lesson learned from CUL Inc., where success in the US domestic marker and in countries like Fiji, and the Netherlands Antilles, St. Maarten, and Curaceo stem from knowing the local market intimately and where to buy locally what that market needs.

"Sourcing vendors means we can really offer our customers a selection where they can find everything they need. And we can do this by having on board a local purchasing staff that has seen the retail business evolve over the last 50 years and a combined purchasing experience of over 70 years. Many have actually trained in the US warehousing format, and they understand how to develop items that are attuned to the local marker." says Thelmo.

Putting local products alongside im-

ported goods makes it affordable for CUL. to bring the prices down. Plus, it relies on the buying power and strong negotiating skills of its US counterparts, which helps CUL offer a better selection of pricey imported goods at reduced tabs.

Competitive edge

CUL aims to make shopping a fun, clean and exciting experience. It offers only the freshest meats, produce and fish from the local market, Australia and the US, while utilizing innovative cold storage practices to make sure that foodborn diseases and bacteria are mini-

It offers rotisserie chicken, a meals solutions center, a slicing deli, and US and local frozen and deli items. The bakery is developed and baked by industry-leadmg companies such as Pillsbury and Delifrance. Cifl. will soon forge a partnership with local experts in the market to offer a coffee shop, US-style food service, fast-food chain and one-hour photo

Another competitive edge of CUL is its no-membership policy, no charge on credit card transactions, and a free loyalty program that is not based on points but on discounting schemes taken off at the register when a loyal customer pur-

CUL has also developed a system that gestions at

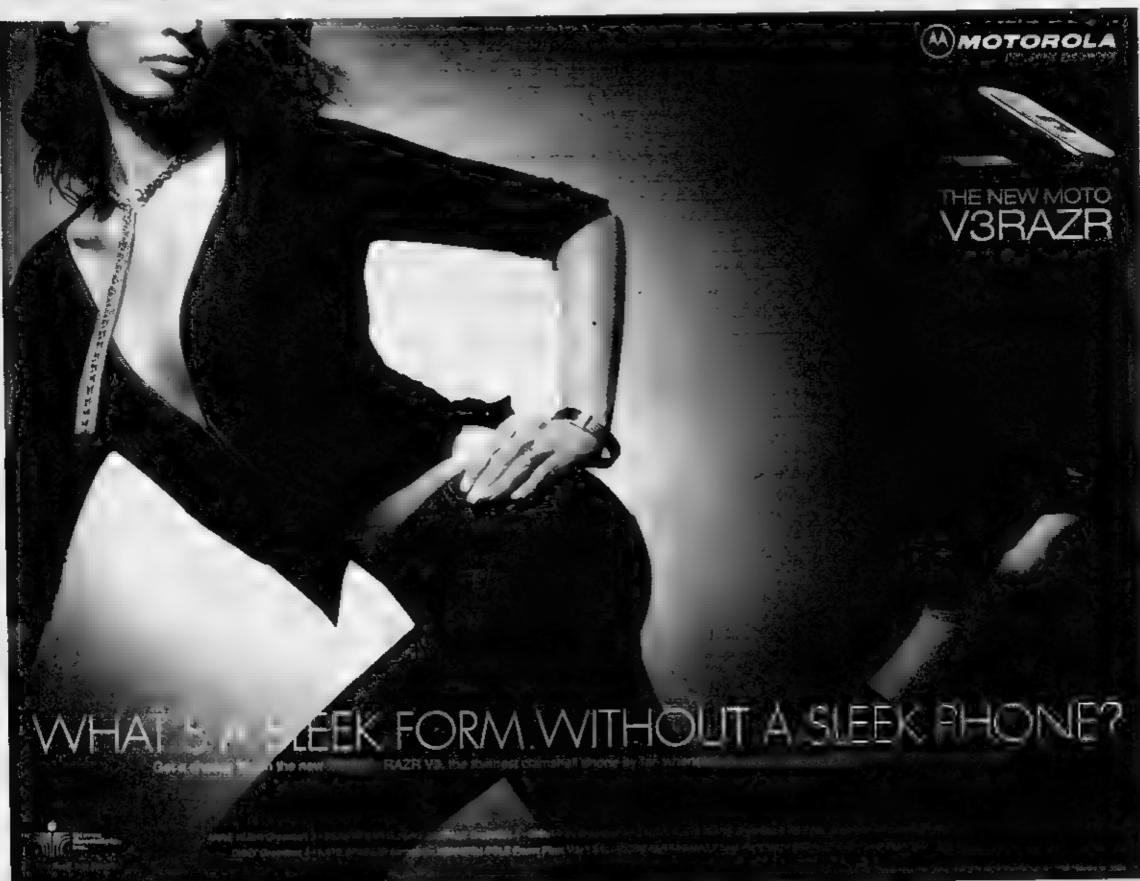


COCKTAILS in the midst of a unique warehouse concept that combines the system of local hypermarkets with the technology of the US-based Cost-U-Less group.

PHOTOS, ERNIE U. SARMENTO

allows for direct customer feedback. Labrecque explains. Then our staff has complaints immediately and provide in- either be a placed phone call to the cusstant review of their complaint or sug-gestions at the corporate level," it."

"The system enables us to type in their 96 hours to input a response, which will



New Casino Español de Cebu opens

T took two years to build the monumenta, new Cosino Espatiol de Cebu, and the time is well worth it.

The casino has basement parking for 200 cars and sports facilities-bowling, gymnasium, tennis, badminton, billiards, basketball court and a huge swimming pool that can double as a reflecting pool with fountain jets.

The regal foyer leads to a covered parlo, the fine dining area that is very elegantly furnished, the spacious and cozy "bar mixto" with its fine wine cellar, and a winding staircase that leads to the grand social hall and ample function rooms.

The grand terrace that surrounds the pool is ever crowded with diners, especially on weekends-buffet suppers on Fridays and Saturdays, and brunch on Sundays.

'Dia' in November

A series of openings has occurred. Por Dia de la Hispanidad in October, the facilities were not complete, so the celebration was moved to November.

It was practically a whole-day affair, including a tour of the premises by all members and families in the afternoon, a Mass officiated at the Cervantes Hall by Msgr. Achilles Dakay, and an informal dinner dance at the social hall, which can accommodate up tp 800 people.

Roberto Aboltiz, president of Cebu's Casmo Español, warmly welcomed the guests, many of

CEBU CEBU Picornell |

table and listen to the Latin music of a very competent group. Bunny Pages, as house chair, was eloquently brief in his remarks, then joined his pretty wife Allen.

Very much present were the rest of the officers-vice president Cheling Sala, with Susan; secretary Rico Gabdioneo, treasurer Ben Dapat, sports director Jimmy Escaño and Ellen, and cultural events director Gabby Leyson, who once served as the club's president.

Working behind the scenes and ever so efficiently were the castno's service manager, Rudy Rubi, who has been there for years; and Robert Lina chief executive consultant. He comes from Sweden but he has absorbed the Cebuano spirit since he is married to pretty Fatima Pilapil.

Excellent spread

Gema Pido, the casino's food consultant, was quite evident, supervising the buffet table which groaned with specialties. The turkey was to die for, both white and dark meet, and Gema had concocted a special sauce of giblers that was super. The roast beef, which came from Jimmy Es-

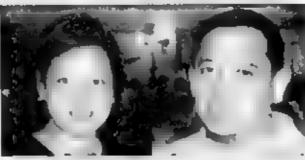
My father, Don Santiago Picornell, attended the party. He did not want to muss it and, at 92, he is as spry as ever. He has the distinction of being the only person alive who was at the founding meeting of Casino Español de Cebu in January 1920. A child of 8, he was brought there by his father, Don Bartolome Picornell.

A witness to history, he was reministing at the table he shared with Vivina Chlu Yrastorza and Fe Sala Villarica. He got up to search for Gema and congratulate her for the stupendous croquetas de bacalap. Gema responded, "Till

send you another plateful." "Isn't the music too loud?" My father asked, as a band took its place on a dais and started dishing out dance music. It was getting too retro, until someone stood up and whispered to the band leader to shift to disco music. Though it became even louder, the dance floor became packed, and oh what fun it was.

Tessie Javier could have vied for the title of dancing queen. Lisette Garcia, too. The jumplest pair was Ange, and Josephine Ocubillo, who could do the most jitterbuggy boogie-woogie ever.

Joe and Chinggay Utzurrum sat out the dance numbers but a lot of people seemed to gravitate toward them. Joe represents Allied Metals In Cebu, and they had done a great job of supplying stainless steel kitchen equipment Without them, all that fine food would not have filled with goodies. Door prizes been possible.



ELLEN and Jimmy Escaño



GEMA Pido, Casino Español de Cabu's food consultant



MANOLING Saint



CASINO Español VP Chaling Sala with wife Susan Montenegro Sala and Honey Loop

Fund-raiser, inaugural

More activities are scheduled at the Casino Español. As we write this, the Pilita Corrales show is about to take place at the grand bailroom to raise funds for the St. Joseph Foundation. She is also donating her talent fee to the foundation.

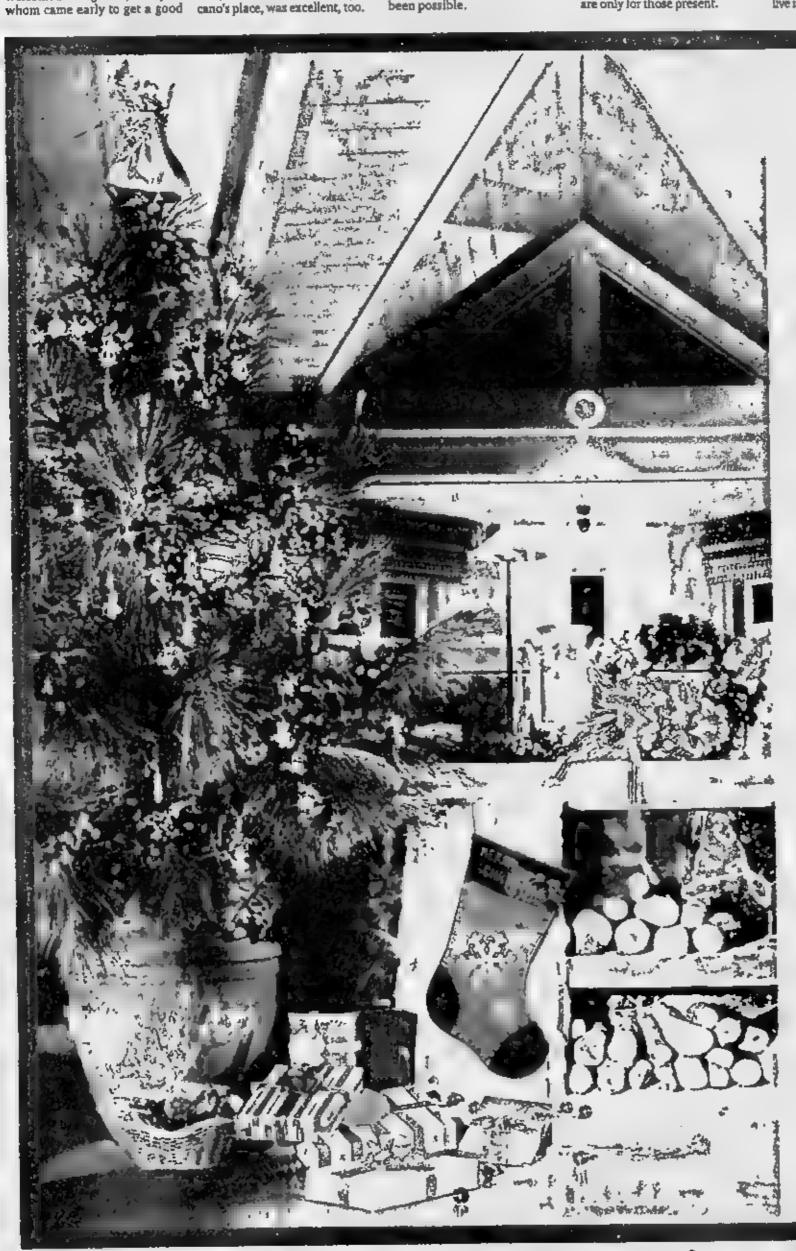
On Dec. 11, the traditional Cestas de Navidad raffle will be heid. A large crowd is expected. Prizes are lots of Christmas baskets are only for those present.

A formal ball will be held on Dec. 31 for the grand inaugural of the club In years past, the New Year's Eve ball was a costume par-

ty with prizes for the best getup. Amparito Lhuillier has been adamant about changing that, et least for the year. She and Michel are expecting all their children to be here-Yvette from Paris with husband Franck Warned and their son; the famous Monique from Beverly Hills with husband Tom Bugbee; Charles and Joanna with their brood from Manila. Michael and Joanna. live in Cabu with their three sons.



RICO Gandionco

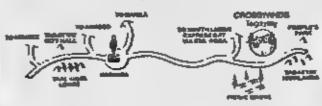


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Wiring, the world's youth

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

DON Bosco Technical Institute vocational students get firsthand experience in the school's e-Learning instructional method. Showing them how this computer-aided system works are: (standing, from left) b Fr. Gregorio Bicomorng Jr., Don **Bosco Provincial** Economer, and Sang Youl Eom, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines.

Samsung's DigitAll Hope project seeks to give young people across Asia greater access to new technology

By Rowena C. Burgos

■ NSURING that all young people have equal access to information technology is an increasingly important usue for the future development of the Asia-Pacific region.

This is why Samsung launched DigitAll Hope last year in eight Asian countries-Australia, Singapore, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines. The program is part of Samsung's comm tment to give back to the countries in which it operates.

Youth are the focus because those aged 15-24 represent such a large segment of the overall population in the region at almost 20

"This region has given the company such great success, and the youth here, with so many ambitions, dreams and aspirations, should be given the chance to achieve greatness," says Angeline Limbaco, marketing тападет.

What makes DigitAll Hope a pivotal project is the size of the grant money (\$66,000 to the two Philippine winners alone); its regional focus on an area where using information technology to fill a development gap will remain a key .ssue; and the theme of youth, whose lives will be improved through the use of informatton technology.

"Youth represent a significant portion of Asia's population and will be the driving engine in leading the way for social and economic development into the future. Today's youth have grown up in the age of technology and many have benefited from this progress. However, there are many who have fallen behand in the information age. Samsung strongly believes in supporting programs that increase unnovative use of technology to bring services such as education to more people and build personal development and aspirations," explains Bam Aquino, Nanona: Youth Commission chair and member of the local judging committee

The other judges were Sang Youl Eom, president and CEO, Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp., and Joy Buensalido, president and CEO, Buensal do and Associates.

2004 winners

The Salesians of St. John Bosco Philippines and Altiora Quaero Foundation were adjudged the country's most deserving recipients of the 2004 DigitAll Hope grant.

These organizations will share the \$66,000



THE SAMSUNG E-Learning Center in Don Bosco Schools offers I 1/2-year manpower skills training programs in various technology trades.





THE ALTIORA Quaero Foundation in Negros



SANG Youl Eom, Samsung president and CEO, with Unesco secretary general, Ambassador Preciosa Soliven, executive director Robert Alaban, Altiora Quaero Foundation treasurer Rene Talve, and National Youth Commission president/CEO Bambam Aquino

Wiring the world's youth

From page K1

monetary and product grant to fund their respective technology-based projects that seek to enrich communities and the lives of young people in the country.

Don Bosco's winning proposal is entitled "Institutionalizing the Use of E Learning for Out-of-School Training for Better Effectivity with Cost Efficiency in the Philippines." The project was an offshoot of its Samsung e-Lab project, which also clinched the DigitAll Hope grant in 2003 and received \$45,000 in funding.

The new project will expand the e-learning system implemented by Samsung e-lab to reach more out-of-school youth (OSY) in the country. The organization will implement this by creating a network of learning centers for this marginalized sector.

The Alnora Quaero Foundation in Negros Occidental has Tuverule Undertakings in Sustainable Farming Through Alternative Resource Management and Information Technology."

The endeavor seeks to build a training center and demonstration farm in rural areas that will make techno-savvy agri-entrepreneurs out of OSYs. This will be implemented

through IT materials and hands-on apprenticeship in sustainable agriculture.

This year saw a total of 300 grant applications from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. Out of the 300, only 31 projects were chosen by a regional judging panel.

The panel of judges included Ambassador Preciosa Soliven of Unesco-Phils.; Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Trade and Industry for Singapore; Dr. Pairash Thajchayapong, president, National Science and Technology Development Agency of Thailand; and Dr. H. Arief Rachman, executive chair of Indonesian Counsel for Unesco.

Corporate care

Since 1995, Samsung Electronics has been involved in environmental preservation, promotion of the information age, education and projects for the physically handicapped. In the Asia region, Samsung is actively engaged in many local community and sports programs, spending over \$1.5 million in 2002 for the eight involved countries.

In its two years of existence, Samsung Digi-

SOLUTION

answer on page D3

tAll Hope has awarded \$1.15 million in grants to organizations supporting the use of technology to improve young lives and helping to bridge the digital divide.

According to a 2002 International Telecommunication Union study, the digital divide is an issue raised by the UN Global Compact as a focus area for development in Asia, affecting youth that make up nearly 20 percent of the region's population, with implications for some 400 million people with disabilities living in the Asia-Pacific region.

The study also said that only about 5.5 percent of Asians are Internet users as compared to 24.2 percent in the United States and 20.79 percent in Europe. Also, only about 4 percent of Asians own PCs as compared to 27.5 percent in the US and 20 percent in Europe.

This relatively low level of IT use and penetration rate places these countries at a disadvantage in a rapidly networked world.

A study by the Centre for International Development on the readiness of a community to join the networked world found 4 out of the 7 countries involved in the Samsung Digitall Hope program ranked in the lower half of a total of 75 countries.

"This is why ensuring that the youth have access to the skills and tools that will enable them to compete in the global digital world has been a focus area for Samsung's DigitAll Hope," says Limbaco.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirencom.ph.



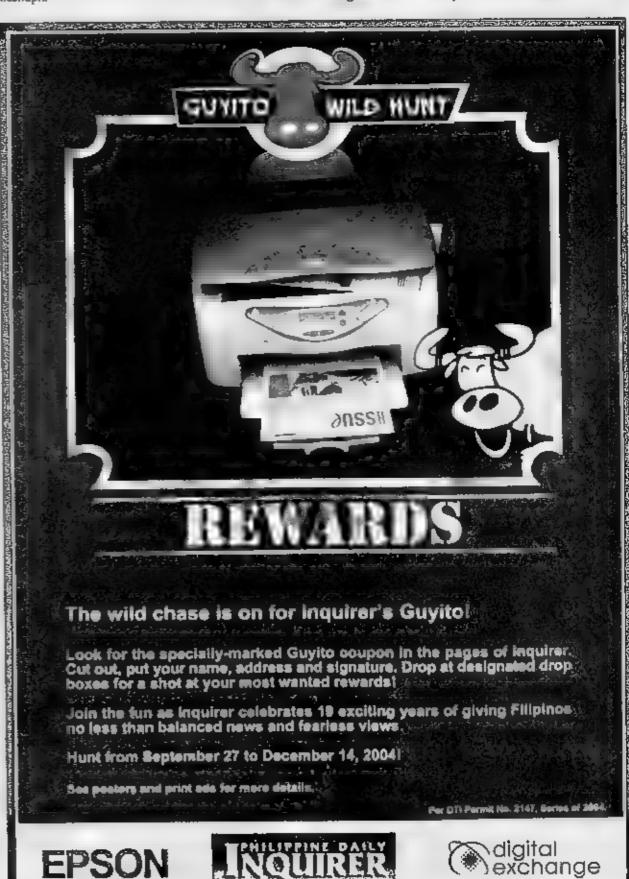
A STUDENT doing hands-on work as part of his In-Center Training

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

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Can he hope for a fairy-tale ending?

DEAR Emily,

I am 27 years old. My problem is I have fallen in love with Jane, my officemate. There should not be any trouble there, but we are as different as day and night. She is either a secretary or a computer engineer and I am only a janitor.

I fell in love with her the very first time I saw her and I have not been able to get her out of my mind. She takes my breath away every time I see her.

Once I couldn't stop staring at her and she accidentally looked at me. I felt instinctively that she liked me, too. But I can be wrong.

being courted by two guys who are professionals, and that made me truly sad. How can I compete with them?

I don't think I am a complete loser. I worked abroad for two years as an OFW to save money and make my dreams come true. In my spare time I write songs and hope to be a professional

composer someday. I'm told that if I weren't so thin, I wouldn't look so bed.

I plan to send her roses anonymously. I am so in love with her, I'd marry her tomorrow if only I were a rich man. Should I pursue her? I've heard of fairy tales, but do you think I have a chance with her?

MR. SHY GUY

In the context of fairy tales, the princess kisses the frog and transforms him into a prince, right? Or were you imagining yourself as Cinder-fella?

Remember we're living in a real world. I heard around the office that she is Being crazy in love is not enough to win anybody, however intense your feelings may be. Love is wonderful-no quarrel there. Let's even imagine that Jane falls for you--warts and all.

But after the frenzy of loving subsides and the two of you come down to earth again, what next?

To become a "prince" depends on how

EMILY'S Post Emily A. Marcelo



well you handle yourself. You cannot live on love alone. You call yourself only a janitor-so what are you doing for your future? Were you able to invest your OFW money wisely? Do you have a business on the side? If not, are you a working stu-

In the wild, the female of the species always chooses the strongest male to mate with her. This assures her that her offspring will be able to survive and carry only good genes.

You may have all these dreams in the back of your mind, but are you doing something to impress your Jane that you

Walk your talk and you'll not feel so inferior to court anybody ever-including

Haunted by the past

I am 30 years old and my problem is about my wife's past. She was engaged to someone long before I met her and she had sexual relations with ber then

We've been married four years now, but I still cannot forget and forgive what they did when they were lovers. I have no right to get jealous or angry since I didn't know her then, but I can't help

She told me everything about her past before we got married and I have no reason to question her fidelity, but still I am so unsure of her.

Can you help me with this festering

Why did you marry her if you cannot get her past out of your mind? Were you a virgin yourself when you got marned?

Besides her "bad" past, what is it that is bothering you? Or is it just the sex part that is driving you crazy? Is she a horrible wife? Does she flirt when the two of you go out? Has she uttered her former boyfriend's name in her sleep ever?

If your answer to all these is a resounding "No," I suggest you take a slow, long and hard look at your own self and see if you are even worth living with for the rest

Remember that you are messing up your marriage with your insane jealousy-unnecessarily! There's more to life than a "bad" past. Grow up!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host "Kalıkasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., OVERMAN Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM















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Rosa Mistica and the hour of grace

ur Lady of Rosa Mistica (or Mystical Rose), on her seventh apparition in 1947, rold the people gathered in the Basilica in Montichiari, Italy that she wanted to be honored at noon on Dec. 8 of every year and that the "hour of grace for the world" be celebrated. She said many divine graces would be received through this devotion.

"Our Lord, my Divine Son Jesus, will send His overflowing mercy, if good people will pray continuously for their sinful brother.

One should very soon notify the Holy Pather of the Church, Pope Pius XII, that it is my wish that the Hour of Grace for the World be made known and spread throughout the world. If anyone is unable to visit his church, yet will pray at noon at home, he will also receive graces through me. Whoever prays on



find a secure heavenly ladder and receive protection and grace through my motherly heart.

"This Hour of Grace will produce great and numerous conversions. Hardened and cold hearts resembling this marble will be touched by divine Grace, and they will become faithful to Our Lord in loyal love."

First apparition

had an unforgettable experience as she prayed in the chapel of a Montichiari hospital. Mary appeared to her in a wonderful vision and magnificent light. She was dressed in mauve, very sad, with tears in her eyes. Pierina noticed that three swords pierced ber

The first sword meant the unworthy celebration of Holy Mass and unworthily received Communion. The second sword was being unfaithful to, and giving up, the vocation as a priest or a religious while the third was betrayal of the Faith. Our Lady's only words were to ask for prayer, sacrifice and

During the second apparition, Pierina asked our Lady who she was and received



ROSA Mistica, or Our Lady of the Mystical Rose, appeared to a nurse in Montichieri,

of all of you. Our Lord sends me to bring a new Marian Devotion to all religious orders and institutes, male and female, and to the priests of this world. I promise to protect those religious orders and institutes who will venerate me in this special way, increase their vocations, and achieve a greater striving for saintliness among the servants of God."

There were five more apparitions and on Dec. 7, 1947 Our Lady promised to show her

Much later, Pierina interpreted the title "Mystical Rose" as "Mary being the master teacher of the innermost, mystical life and the Mother of the mystical body of Christ." In other words: she is the mother of the church.

in 1964, Pope Paul VI confirmed the interpretation of Pierina as true and declared that the title "Rosa Mistica" be accorded Our La-

Montichiari is now a place of pilgrimage. My friends Robert and Ruby Puckett were there on Dec. 8 last year and venerated the Rosa Mistica in her altar

Pilgrim Fatima

The international pilgrim image of Our Lady of Patima is, as of this writing, in the Diocese of Malolos. She will be at the Carmel of the Holy Child Parish in Angeles City Dec. 6-7 then the Diocese of Tarlac until Dec. 28.

She will be at the Diocese of Novaliches Dec. 28-29 then the Diocese of Bataan, the Holy Rosary Church in Orani, Dec. 30-Jan. 1.

This column will update you on the sched-ule of the pilgrun image which was bessed in 1947 by the Bishop of Leiria in Patima, Portugal. Fr. Melvin Castro, secretary of Tarlac Bishop Cinenze and director of Radio Maria Philippines, is Philippine coordinator Cail (045) 9821938.

50th anniversary

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Antipolo celebrates its 50th anniversary on Dec. 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception. Novena Masses are ongoing until Dec. 7. Four deacons were ordained priests in November. The Sacred Ministry staged a concert last Dec. 3.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales will bless the new alter at 5 p.m. today white Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco will preside over the reenactment of the canonical coronation of the Virgin at 9 a.m., Dec. 8. He will be assisted by Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes.

Bishop Teodoro Bacani will be the Advent recollection master at 7 p.m., Dec. 14, inside

Msgr. Rigoberto de Guzman wrote to say: "We celebrate even in times of hardships for God's gift of the Eucharist and His Mother who ceaselessly guides us in our journey."

Our Lady of Makati

Nuestra Señora de la Rosa de Makan (Our Lady of Makati) will join the grand Marian procession for the first time at 4 p.m., Dec. 5. The image's participation was made possible by Msgr. Antonio Unson and Fr. Jay Bautista

and the pastoral council. The old image was brought to the parish of Siz. Peter and Paul by Fr. R Delgado, SJ, in 1718 as a gift to Marian devotees in the

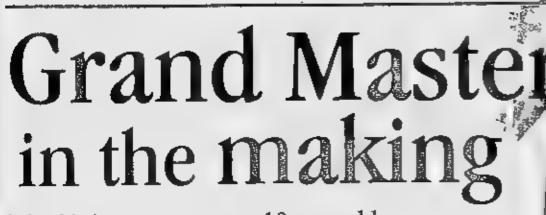
Golden jubilee Taal will mark the Golden Jubitee of the carronical coronation of Our Lady of Caysasay by Cardinal Quiroga on Dec. 8,

Pestivities will start with Masses every hour 4-9:30 a.m., Dec. 8, at the Our Lady of Caysasay Shrine. A Mass at 3 p.m. precedes the fluvial parade that will start from the shrine followed by the procession to St. Martin de Tours Basilica with the usual have, a poem sung to the Virgin. Fr. Carlo Magno Is

the Rector of the Shrine. The following day, coronation rites will start at 9 a.m. Luwa will be conducted by Mikee Villano. It will be followed by the concelebrated Mass of Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, with Bishops Salvador Quizon, Ruben Profugo, and Buenaventura Famadico, and other priests as co-celebrants.

The Tasl Plesta Committee is chaired by hermano, Dr. Ernesto C, Noche, Vice-chairs are Delia Lota and Gilda Banaag Mitra. Advisers are Bushop Salvador Quizon, Fother Bong Panganiban, Pr. Ricky Echague, Pr. Randy Sudario, Mayor Librado Cabrera and Fe Cabr-





By Anne A. Jambora

HEN Marc Christian Nazario, a mere 8 years old then, pleaded for a brand-new chess set two years ago, his father Uly was puzzled and surprised.

Although his parents have always been supportive of youngest son Marc's interests and hobbies, their home-schooled child had no friends-and playmates-from whom he might have learned the board game

And there was, in fact, a chess set at home, champ despite a remnant of the old man's love for the sport in his youth. The old set, with its lackluster checkered board in black and white, was gathering dust in one corner, many of its pieces already lost.

Years had passed since Uly last picked up a pawn. But with renewed enthusiasm, he eagerly indulged his son.

Hearing impairment

How did Marc learn of a game called chess? His two brothers were over 10 years older than him, and he knew practically no one outside of his family, for one reason. He has bilateral atresta, a hearing impairment caused by the absence of ear canais

Looking after their son's interests, the overly protective parents had chosen to withdraw Marc from "normal" society for fear that he might be taunted and ridiculed by insensitive children. And so Marc learned to entertain himself, losing himself in books and computer games until he accidentally discovered a chess program in his mother Cynthia's Palm Pilot.

"Inoral ko po 'yung mga piyesa at 'yung mga movements nila sa Palm Pilot," Marc says

When Marc began beating his dad in chess-which he did in just a few sessions-he teasingly declared he had always won over the PDA's program. Turned out Marc played on a two-player mode, playing for both, so it was inevitable for him to "win"

The boy was simply too happy to be playing with a real person for the first time.

But happiness was short-lived. A few days after father and son had taken up the game, Marc's dad had to leave for a two-month out of-town assignment. So Marc again began playing chess on his own until weeks later, when his family was in Greenhills.

His mother chanced upon a group of young boys playing chess. As fate would have it, it was the Milo Chess Chruc.

Marc's excited mother immediately asked

10-year-old Marc Christian Nazario has become a muchrespected chess his hearing

hun if he wanted to join the class. But her Club, and more. son's blasé, noncommittal reply didn't discourage Cynthia. She knew her son was hesitant to be surrounded by kids his age and unfamiliar adults, since he was accustomed to mingling and interacting only with his family and their intimate friends.

Cynthia enrolled Marc anyway, and since then this boy's life has changed dramatically.

More than medals

disability

During his first year of joining chess tournaments alone, local and international, Marc has reaped medals and awards—gold, silver and bronze-and has earned the respect of

He joined the Shell Active in Bacolod, Lucena and NCR, Metropolitan Chess Club, Codinera, Café Lupe, Mandaluyong Chess Club, La Union Open, GMA Cavite, Laguna Chess

His first international tourney was during the 4th Asean Age-Group Chess Championship in Brunei last year, where his team took home the bronze. Last September, Marc won four medals-one gold, two silvers, one bronze-at the 5th Asean Age-Group Chess Championship in Vietnam

But more than the medals and adulations, Mare has found his place in this world, regained his self-confidence and learned to look beyond his disability.

"Marc is a boy transformed. The socialization, sportsmanship, communication skills and patience he has developed are worth much more than any medal or certificate," Cynthia says.

Now 10 years old, Marc is, for the first time, enrolled in a regular school, where he has recently been accelerated to a higher level. Ex-

ceiling in Math, Language and Music, his favorite subjects, Marc is also in the honor roll

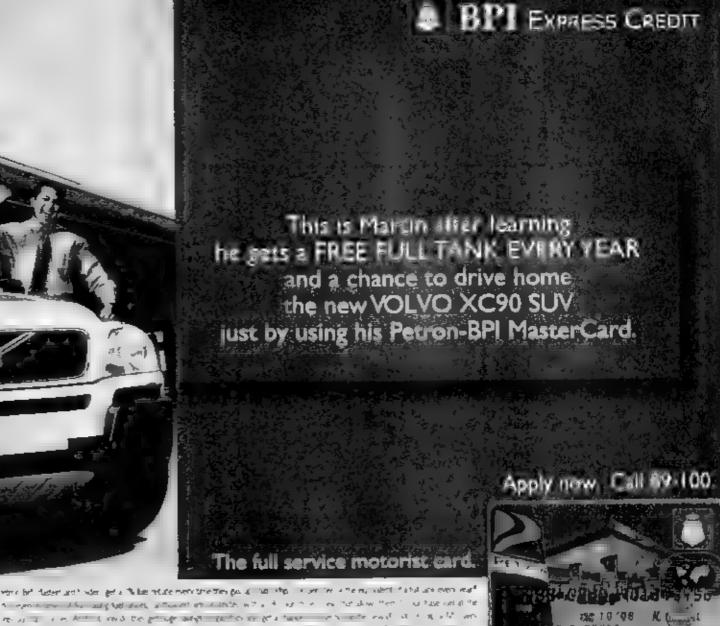
More importantly, he has friends, nearly all of them now also chess enthusiasts—thanks to Marc who gladly made converts out of them. Even his family's weekend activities

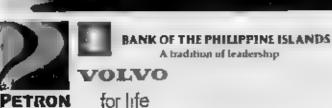
ON HIS favorite piece, the King: "Yun ang leader na dinidipensa ma kaya so hull 'yun ang natitirang nakatayo." RAFFY LEAPLA











to 10 in a recentrer arthodox. In other and heady agreements the services the separation tear *Computed based on the Petron XCS Plus rate of Plap 28.00 per liter and the average motional's consumption of 40 Sters per week. See liyers for details. Membership fee is FREE for the lirst year. Visit any partropoling Petron station, BM branch, BM Family Bank transit, Expiress

Banking Center or www.chpuspressoulus.com, Prymo is from Oct. 21, 2001 - April 30, 2005. Per O'R-NCR Fernet No. 2521, Series of 2004.



RAGNAROK

GET READY

TO TASTE MY

BLADES, FOOLS

INCOMINGI

E IM OUTTA HERE!

PUGAD BABOY

TO MIDGARD

い出

FOLLOW THE FOLI

Philippine

HOW'S THAT SOUND?



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM









BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



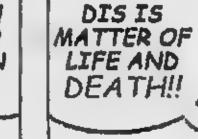
Read the Inquirer Comics Sunday and get a chance to win weekly prizes from Ragnarok, Filbars and Fully Booked or a PC in the Grand Draw! Text INQVOTE to 29 I (SMART) and 2949 (Globe) now!*
Congratulations to last week's winners: I) Rene J. Novisteros, North Cotabato, 2) Andrew Joseph Salanguit, Las Pinas City, 3) Rey C. Campued, Gen. San.
Congratulations to this week's winners: I) Godfrey Dungo, Baccor, Cavite, 2) Carmelia Ragay Venyco, Manila, I) Gladiola Eje, Latangas City To claim your prizes, please call (02)897-8808 loc. 352. Look for Mr. Dennis Leung

BY BLOG CALIGUIA



INDAY WANDA

ATE INDAY! EASY LANGI BA'T PARANG MASYADO KA YATANG TENSE? SA'N KA BA PUPUNTA?











DARNA

NOTES

BY MANGO COMICS











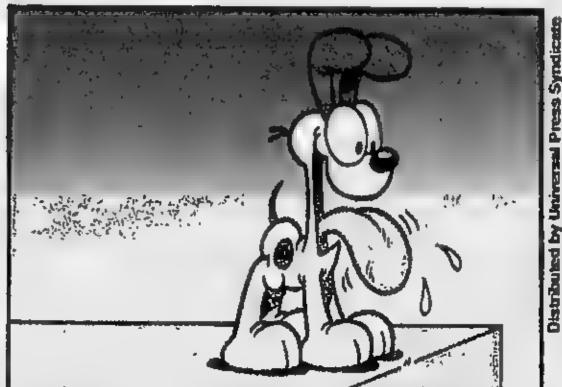


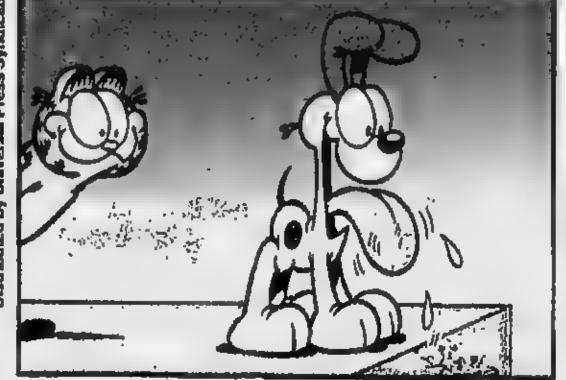


GARFIELD

N. S. C. S.

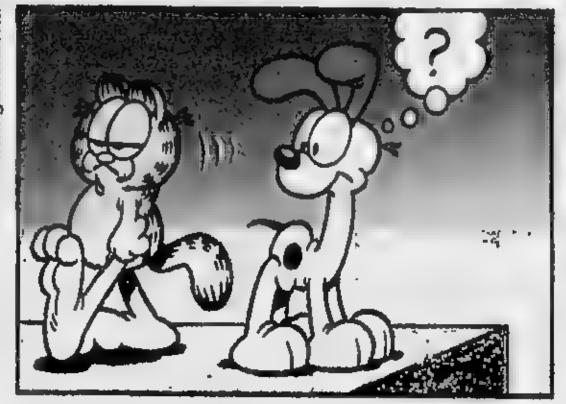








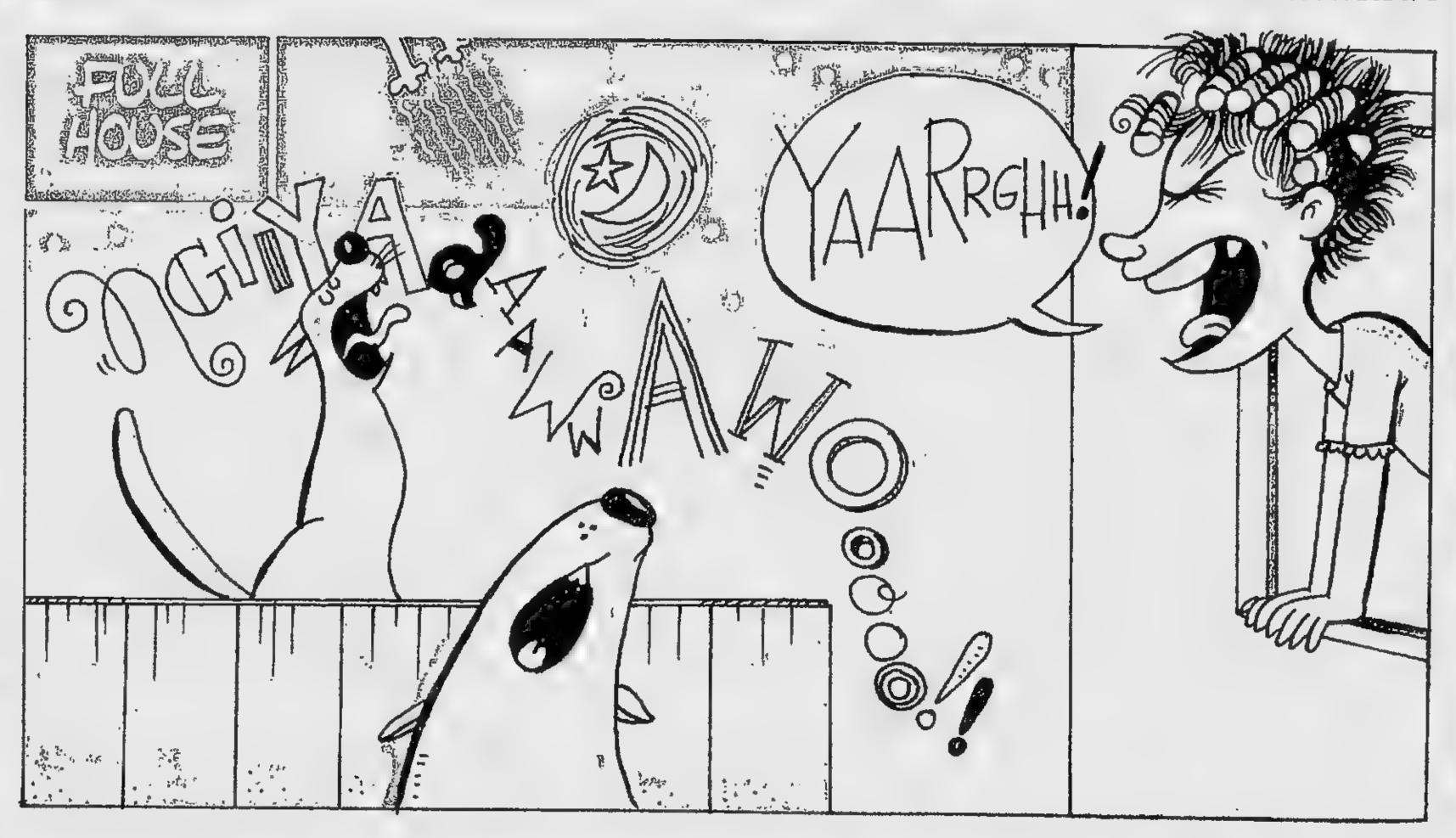






FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGH

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Grand Master in the making

now revolve around chess. Marc's idol, Eugene Torre, says:

Asia's first Grand Master and consistently landing as one of the developing his skills and building the many other Marcs out there top players in tournaments, his character and confidence. He who also have the potentia, and

"Marc has proven his ability by Chess has been instrumental in deserves our support, as well as



hristmas it less to legitated in the Philippines over than any other place on earth. TV host 'Cito Beltran, La Salle cager Mark Cardona, and PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad couldn't agree more.

"Straight Talk" host Cito Beltran vividly remembers his first Christmas away from home. "I was a single guy in Connecticut with Scandinavian women, but I was crying. I simply missed home," he remarks. Christmas for him is about continuing a holiday tradition. Tradition consists of looking for a Norwegian spruce, fixing it up and decorating it with the rest of the family at home. Indeed, comfort amid familiarity is important to Cito because he is constantly under public scrutiny as a TV personality. It is the same with his preference in clothes. "It is hard to do an interview if I do not like the color of my pents or if my underwear does not fit well." Hence, comfortable clothes and underwear add to his comfort level when doing the job he loves best.

La Salle forward Mark Cardona lived in the United States for two years before coming home to the

Philippines and becoming a hardcourt hero. According to hun, he is awed by the trappings of a traditional Filipino Christmas, lanterns everywhere, parties galore, the simbang gabi, the long celebration. "Christmas in the states is ordinary. It's very different here. It's more emoyable," he puts it succinctly Likewise, comfort amid familiarity is important to Mark. He has no qualms about buying clothes from any local store as long as they're comfortable. He has the habit of buying undergarments which are a bit loose. "B.V.D. undergarments make me feel fresh and cool," he says.

Philippine Basketball League Commissioner and sportscaster Chino Trinidad remembers that time in 1993 when he experienced a different kind of Christmas. Together with the Philippine basketball team, he went to Kuwait to bring Christmas cheer to OFWs who had been abused by their employers, "I reatized there is nothing like Christmas at home - that it is better celebrated with family and friends," he resterates. Like Cito, comfort is also important to Chino. Preferring comfort over style, the high quality B.V D. (Bradley, Voorhees and Day) brand of undergarment is tops for him "B.V.D. briefs and sando are so comfortable you hardly feel you're wearing them," he says. "They're like your second skin."

For these gentlemen, there is nothing like returning home or being home where Christmas traditions and old yuletide habits remain. An old habit is what the B.V.D. line of men's undergarments is to mislions of successful men-

all over the world for more than 100 years. Fresh and cool, comfort over style - B.V D.'s Legendary Quality Since 1876.

who should be given the chance to be introduced to this game."

FOR NOW, this kid dreams of playing against International Master Mark Parague. "MARYLER!

Self-sufficient

Marc is the recipient of a chesstraining program by the Rotary Club of Sta. Mess, where Torre supervises his trausing. Aside from that, he trains at home an average of three hours every day. He studies his notes during tournaments, takes time to analyze his and his opponents' moves, and voraciously reads chess books.

He is self-sufficient, too, finding ways to support his chess needs instead of merety relying on do.e-outs from the govern-

ment and private companies. Marc designed a T-shirt to be soid at P500 each to raise funds

was initially meant to raise money for the recently concluded World Youth Chess Championship in Greece, but Marc was forced to stay home when he contracted chicken pox.

The fund raising goes on, however, to support his many upcoming tourneys abroad, such as the 2004 Asian Youth Chess Championships in Singapore on Dec. 10.

"I want to be a world champion someday," Marc says.

With only 13 chess world champions around the globe, this ambitious boy just might join the rarefled ranks of Bobby Pischer, Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kas-

E-mall the author at ajambofor his tournaments abroad. It ra@inquiren.com.ph.



Vote for your favorite comic strip via text and get a chance to win exciting prizes in the weekly

E Puged Baboy

F, Inday Wanda

H. Full House

Mechanics:

- Read inquirer Comics Sunday every week and yole for your leverite comic strip among
 - A. Regnarok
 - 8 Dama C. Garlield
 - D. Mothergoose and Grimm
- 2. To vote, type:
- INQVOTE <Corresponding letter of title>
- 3. Send to 291 for SMART and 2949 for Globa.
- 4. The more text messages you send, the more chances to win. 5. Voting opens every Sunday at SAM of each week and closes on the Thursday at 12NN of the
- 6. Winners will be drawn via electronic raffie. There will be three (3) weekly winners and one 7. Draw dates are as follows:

Period

Week Number

10

- Hovembor 21 November 25 November 28 - December 2 December 5 - December 8 Docember 12 - Docomber 16 Decembor 19 - Decumber 23 December 26 - December 30 January 2 - January 6
 - January 9 January 13 January 16 - January 20 January 23 - January 27
- Draw Date November 25 December 2 December 9 Secomber 16 December 23 Documber 30 January 6 January 13 January 26 January 27

- Weekly draws will be every Thursday at 2PM (actitated by a DTI representative.
- 9. Grand Draw is on January 27, 2005.
- 10. All texters from the beginning until the end of the promo are qualified for the Grand Draw.
- 11. Weekly winners can only win once per week but they are also qualified for the Grand Draw.
- First Prize: 1 Personal Computer

12. Prizes:

Grand Draw

Second Prize: 1 Cellular Phone Third Prize: 1 Gift Pack from Fully Booked or Filber's

Weekly Draw

- Each weekly winner will receive the following:
- Comic books from Fully Booked
 Comic books, fun Items and gift certificates from Filher's
- Regnarok fun nems from Levelupt
- 13. Weekly and Grand Prize Winners will be notified via text message. Names of the winners will stac be posted in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- 14. Winners may claim their prizes at the Philippine Daily inquirer office upon presentation of a valid ID plus the SMS notification
- Prizes not daimed within 15 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Philippina
- 16. All employees of PDI Group of Companies, sponsors, their advertising agencies and their relatives up to the third degree of consenguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo-











THE EMBASSY of Belgium presents the Las Piñas Boys Choir on Dec. 16 at the Podium.

Celebrate a European Yuletide

■ HE EUROPEAN Commission Delegation and the European Union member states. with The Podium and Smart Communications, will take shoppers on a magical tour of continental Christmases with the "Amazing EU Christmas," Dec. 7-16 at The Podium's second level lounge.

The centerpiece of the event will be a tableaux of Christmas trees decorated by each participating embassy with homegrown ornaments and trimmings. "Amazing EU Christmas" presents an opportunity for The Podrum shoppers to discover how the different European Union countries celebrate the houdays through carols and chous, performances and Christmas stories.

Participating EU member states include Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Nether-lands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom

Santa Claus from Finland will make a brief stop at The Podium on the opening reception

night on Dec. 7 at 6

p.m. Later in evening, the French School Choir will be performing traditional and contemporary carols like "Noel Blanc," "Mon Beau Sapan" and "Vive le Vent." The performance is presented by the Embassy of

Barbara Nuade, First Secretary of the Embassy of Austria, will tell the story behand the 165-yearold carol, "Sulle Heillige Nache, Nacht" (Silent Night, Holy Night). Learn more about this fascinating story on Dec. 10, 3 p.m.

With a tradition rich in Christmas music and lore, the Embassy of Austria will also present the Kaibigan Vocal Ensemble and the Pun-Virtuoso daguit String Ensemble on the same day at 4 p.m. The former is an all-female group that toured Europe's key cities early this year, including Rome, where they received standing ovations for their performances.

The Pundaquit Virtuoso String Ensemble, on the other hand, is a group of musically gifted children under the tutelage of young violin virtuoso Coke Botipata. Based in Zambales, the group has slowly been gaining acclaim with their dazzling Interpretation of both classical and pop compositions. Austrian carols are included in the repertoures of both ensembles, including of course, "Silent Night." On Dec. 11 at 5

p.m., the Embassy of Spain and Instituto Cervantes will present Spanish Christmas stories for kids like "Papa Noel Para Siempre," "El Mas Pequenito Arbol de Natividad," "Feliz Natividad Geraldine," "No Asia la Natividad Walter" and "El Arbol de Estrella."

Through storyteller Vivan Mangalindan, kids will learn about Christmas in Spain. Mangalmdan is articulate in four languages and has appeared as a speaker in unternational conferences in the US, France, Spain, Mexico. Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Guam and

This will be followed at 6 p.m. by a musical presentation of the Technological Institute of the Philippines Choral Society under the leadership of Ateneo Glee Chrb alumnus Onyk Torres. The choir will serenade mallgoers will Spanish carols like "Pastores de la Montana," "Aquel Gaban Tan Tan," and "La Vienne La Vieja."

Shoppers will ger a rare glimpse of Sweden's Lucia Celebration in a presentation by the Embassy of Sweden on Dec. 12. The celebration honors St. Lucia, who is said to traditionally open the door to Christmas with her escort of singing boys and girls.

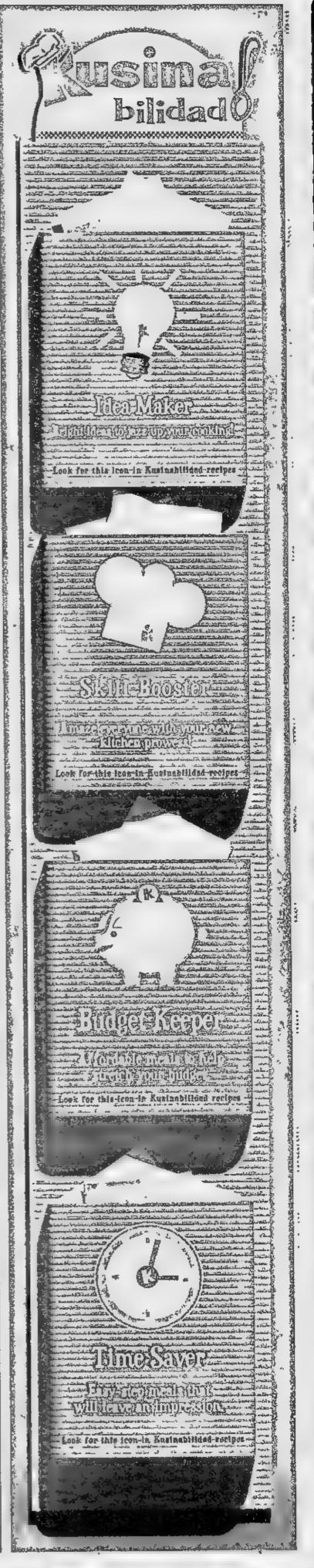
Christmas Stories at 3 p.m. will begin the performance, followed by the Lucia Choir at 5 p.m. composed of young Swedish children who will sing traditional songs like "Lite ar morkt och kalit" (Lucia Song); "Lusse Lelle" (Little Lucia), and "Pepparkasgubbar" (Three Gingerbread Men).

Angelic voices will fill the mail on Dec. 14 as Coro Angelitos, through the British embassy and the British Council, serenades shoppers with English carols like "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "O Come All Ye Faithful," and many more at 7 p.m. Earlier in the day, Melody Romrea will delight kids with a storytelling session of Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol at 6 p.m.

One of the European Union's newest member states, the Czech Republic, will present "Famous Czech Animated Stones for Children" on Dec. 15 at 4-5 p.m. and at 6-7 p.m. at the mail's second floor lounge area.

Capping the festivities is the worldrenowned Las Piñas Boys Choir as presented by the Embassy of Belgium on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. Their repertoire will include traditional Christmas carols from Belgium and the





Sunday LIFESTYLE



IT'S a children's Christmas at the Shang with Effie Narias Dancenter's young ballerinas.

Kiddie Christmas at the mall

S part of a series of Christmas presentations, Shangri-La Plaza presents "It's A Small World Christmas," a theatrical show featuring the talented cast and team of Trumpets, Asia's first professional gospel theater

The show casts 12 kids playing the roles of toys-ballerina dolls, drummer boy, gymnast dol., toy soldier, marionette, rag doll, walking dol, choo-choo train, robot, puppet and viohrust doll-gathered under a big Christmas

The song-and-dance play also features Lana Jalosios in the role of a Christmas angel. "It's A Small World Christmas" will run Dec. 5, 12, 21 and 26 at the mall's Grand Atrium.

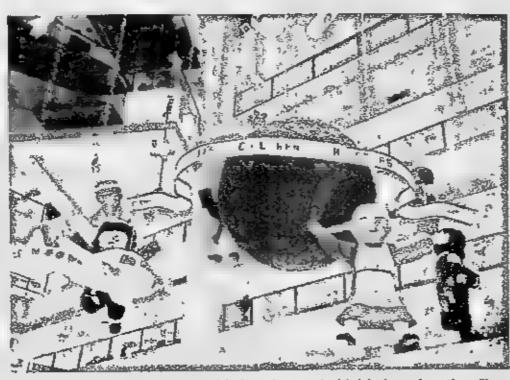
Charles Perrault's classic "Cinderella," will be staged in an interactive musical story-telling by Kids Acts Philippines, also at the Grand Atrium, on Dec. 11. With musical di-rection by Eugene Belbis and direction and script by Luigi Nacario, the musical has Ruth Alferez, Diana Alferez, Joann Co, Irene Delarmente, Judith Javier and Paolo O'Hara in the cast

Effie Nañas Dancenter will present a Christmas ballet performance at the Grand Atrium on Dec. 22, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Among the choirs serenading shoppers will be the Ateneo Chamber Singers at the Art Plaza, Level 4, Dec. 11, 4-5 p.m.; Philippine Children's Choir of Mandaluyong at Leve. 3, Dec. 12, 3-4 p.m.; Philippine Madrigal Singers at Level 3, Dec. 18, 4-5 p.m., Tiples ng Makan at Leve. 3, Dec. 19, 3-4 p.m.; and the Kilyawan Boy's Choir at Level 3, Dec. 26, 3-4

On Dec. 16, the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Master Chorale perform at the Grand Atrium from 7 p.m. to 8

On Dec. 17, Concert Queen Pops Fernandez takes center stage in a special Christmas con-



IT'S a small world after all at the Grand Atrium where a colorful globe hangs from the ceiling, together with figures of kids from different o

cert with the award-winning Philippine Children's Choir of Mandaluyong at the Grand

Arrium, 7-8 p.m. Acoustic Perfection, composed of violentst Corinna Fabella Lapeña, guitarist Nobel L. Queaño and cellist Francisco S. Llorin Jr., will perform in "A Classical Christmas Concert," a series of shows scheduled on Dec. 17 and 22 at the Art Plaza, and on Dec. 24 at the Grand

Holiday shows at Streetscape, the Mail's outdoor entertainment and dining strip, will feature Juice on Dec. 10, REtroSPECT on Dec. 11. FreeVerse on Dec. 17, John Y Cash & The Jukebox on Dec. 18, and Dimsum & D'Soul in an exciting pre-New Year's Party on Dec. 30.

Santa Claus will be touring the Mall on Dec.



KIDS Acts presents Cinderella.

5, 11, 12, and 18 to 23, and will pose with the

kids and their families for souverur photos. Shangri-La Plaza invites all kids to join A Very Jerry Christmas," a celebration with Cartoon Network at the Grand Atrium on Dec. 19. Jerry (of "Tom & Jerry" fame) is taking a break from his show to get an early start on his holiday gift-wrapping.

Carch the show on Cartoon Network until Dec. 15 and let us know what you think Jerry is wrapping. The first 200 entries to identify all three gifts will win Tom & Jerry Prize Packs and a Cartoon Network VIP Pass.

VIP Pass holders will get a chance to win the grand prize at "A Very Jerry Christmas" Celebration at Shangri-La Plaza on Dec. 19, where kids will meet Tom & Jerry live. Learn the art of gift-wrapping in "It's A

Wrap with Wrap Shop," a Christmas giftwrapping session slated on Dec. 10 at the Art Piaza, Level 4. Mall hours on Dec. 8-23 are 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

On Dec. 24 and 31, Christmas shopping will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Mall will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Regular mail hours-10 a.m. to 9 p.m. -- will resume Dec. 26-31. Call 6337851.

A GIANT 45-ft Christmas tree, adorned with gold ribbons, balls in pastel colors, ice cream cones, gingerbread men, teddy bears, follypops, hearts and golden stars, takes



PINK and white organiza outfits with belt bow.

Holiday dresses

collection for kids turns on the fashion charm with lovely organza dresses fit for a ball.

Delightful femunine touches-ribbons and bows, a shower of beads and pearls, and exquisite floral appliqués-add their storybook enchantment and allure.

These holiday dream dresses are available at the Children's Wear De-



CHRISTMAS cheers. Nina and Amy in lime green checkered dresses sprinkled with partment of all SM pink beads, plnk flower applique, lace belts



GO Oriental this Christmas in this blue and pink floral printed Chinese inspired dress with beadwork and matching party bag.



A traditional Christmas of merry-making in the park

Santa Rosa, Laguna, makes merry to celebrate the essence of Christmas, Various rides and attractions ensure whole families of an enjoyable time when they visit during the holiday season.

The Kingdom's seven park zones of-. fer different delights.

The Midway Boardwalk has a carnival atmosphere with clowns, jugglers and mime attists to make rides like Anchors Away, Up, Up and Away, Condor,

Splash fun.

At Boulderville, kids can enjoy the teacups of Bumbling Boulders, airplanes of Air Pterodactyl, the kiddie ferris wheel of Stone Eggs, or the dinosaut rides of Dinosoarus.

The futuristic Spaceport has the country's only triple-loop rollercoaster, the Space Shuttle. The Kart Trak is a one-hectare racetrack.

A replica of a place in Panama where the Spaniards sent Incan treasures, Portobello Zone offers the Flying Fiesta, Rio Grande Rapids, and Xtreme Paint-

Discovery Theater.

For those who love the outdoors, there are the Jungle Log Jam and Swan Lake at the Jungle Outpost

Enchanted Kingdom also has retail shops offering a wide array of gifts. It also has "ticket treats" like the Enchanted Kingdom Gift Bundle that includes almost everything priced at P600.

EK's Wizard Money, the "official currency" inside the park, can be used to buy admission tickets, food, and various merchandise. Also available are the

cial."

Enchanted Kingdom has food carts serving poptora, hotdogs, sandwiches holidays: and drinks. Restaurants also offer a vared selection of dishes. The theme park also offers ice cream cakes.

Various surprises also await visitots as well as an impressive fireworks dis-

In December, the park features celebrity storytellers, including Jacklyn Jose and Mari Kaimo.

Daisy Reyes and the Daze Band, as

ENCHANTED Kingdom in Dodgem, Wheel of Fate, or Bump n ball, or watch a horror movie at the 4D "Wizard Treat" and the "Carousel Spe- well as the park's in-house band, mPower.

Enchanted Kingdom schedule for the

Dec. 1-3, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Dec. 4-5, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; fireworks,

Dec. 8-10, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Dec. 11-17, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; fire-

works, 9 p.m.; Dec. 18-Jan. 2, 19 a.m. -12 m.n.; fire-

Call 8436070 to 78, 8302111 to 16, Live shows will feature Bamboo, or visit the EK website at www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph.



Belt and wallet set for Dad (P199.75)

Budget-friendly gift choices

Three shoppers were recently challenged to buy Christmas presents from Robinsons Department Store (RDS) for four special people in their lives within a P1,000 budget.

Shopper No. 1, JP Paglinawan, is a yuppie. His gift recipients in-cluded the boss, an officemate, an 'inaanak' and his girlfriend.

He got his boss a Dunner set costing P199, his co-worker a Memo Pad Holder for only P99.75, his 'Inaanak' a Snooker pool set for P100 and added in a piece of B+ Active Boys' shirt for 99.75, his girlfriend a Julia Clutch Bag costing P189.75 and a Liberté sleeveless blouse (P289 75). The purchases amounted to P978

Shopper No. 2, mom Kathy Ven-tura, bought gifts for her "kumare", her two daughters and the baby

She started off with a fivepiece feeding set for the baby for only P139 75 and a four-piece Christmas mug set at P199.75 for her favorite 'kumare'.

For her two daughters, ventura bought a Doggie Shoulder Bag at P229 75 and a Picnic and Tea Play ser for only P287.75.

The total amount: P857, with enough left over for her own pur-

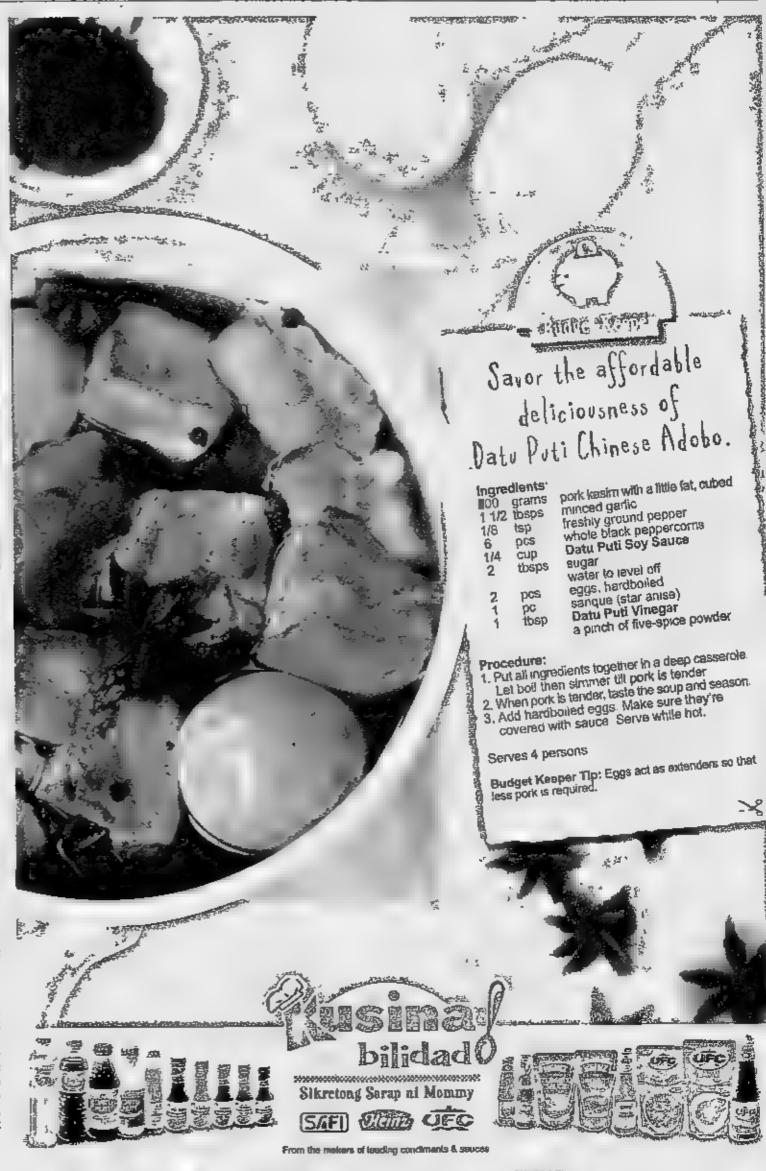
Shopper No. 3, Charlotte Chua, is a codlege student. Gift recipients were her mom and dad, brother and best friend.

For her dad, Chua chose a Beit and Wallet Set, and for her older brother, a Portside Two-in-One Short sleeve Tee Pack. Both sets went for P199.75 each.

She got her Mom a Julia Threein-One Bag (P249.75) and her best friend a P69 75 Liberté Sleeveless Top and a Denim bag at P99.75. The total cost was P818.75.

Like these three shoppers, you too can find inexpensive gift items at any RDS branch.

Visit the nearest Robinsons Department Store in all Robinsons Malls, Waltermart malls, Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Metropohs and Festival Malls in Alabang, and Nepo Mall-Pampanga. Visit www.rds.com.ph





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The BPI VOLVO Lifestyle Promo

For BPI Express Credit For Petron-BPI MasterCard, every Classic/Burgundy, Blue MasterCard and Gold MasterCard, every P500 single purchase entitles cardholder to one raffle entry. To join, just register your purchase by calling the promo hotline 683-0008 for Metro Manila and I-800-10-683-0008 for provincial cardho ders or email bpj.llfestyle@1isa.com. Promo pariod: November 15, 2004 to April 30, 2005.

P 500 fuel purchase in participating Petron stations entitles cardholder to one raffle coupon. To join, just drop coupons at these stations Promo period: October 21, 2004 to April 30, 2005.

Plus a chance to win a dream prize package worth P 800,000 in the Lifestyle Dream Card Rewards promo: Aslan Cruise for 2, Home Remodelling, Home Entertainment Showcase, Rustan's Shopping Sprea, Hotel and Dining Gift Certificates and Gym Membership at Fitness First, just tune in to the Lifestyle Channel for more details. Promo period: November 6,2004 to February 4,2005.

Close to P10 million worth of prizes!



See Syota for stateds, Far ETT-MCR Parent; No. 377), Sector of 2004

See Ayers for deside, Par DTI-MCA Permit \$4s. 2522, Series of 2004

See Ryans for Awards, Pay 1379-24129, Formay, Pro. 2791, Series of 2004

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VOLVO XC90 SUY. Priza for Paston-BPI MasterCard

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VOLVO for life



Banking Center or log on to www.bpiespressonline.com

Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries. For application and inquiries, call BPI Express Phone 89-100, visit any BPI or BPI Family Bank branch or Express Special PROJECT

ness Administration

By Marlet D. Salazar

KEY figures in the business sector, government, and public service are products of a school that has long adhered to excellence, quality, and independence. It has produced the crème de la crème: the people who made a significant difference in their respective fields.

The long list of graduates of the University of the Philippines College have become familiar names and for its roster of employees. faces in the business and government sectors is a living testament that leaders," said Johnip Cua, a graduate quality towers above quantity.

Victoria Bello-Jardiolin, herself a BSBA and MBA graduate of the college, witnessed the ascent of these alumni from being persevering students to contributing members of the Philippine society. She is now a professor in the college after completing her Doctoral studies from the University of Catholic Church in Germany.

Among her students are now well-known personalities like Sen. Manny Villar and wife Rep. Cynthia Villar of Piñas, Melito Salazar, a member of the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Marivic Afionuevo of Ayala Land Inc. and Johnlu Koa, the founder, CEO,

and general manager of French Baker. Jardrolin is the founder of such commercially successful shoe stores Confetti, Natasha, and Marikina Shoe Exchange.

"We have the pick of the crop," Jaring factor as to why we have excellent people."

promising students who have limited means.

"We would like to concentrate our resources on bright kids," Jardiolin said. "We want our students to create jobs not to compete for jobs. That is the thrust of the college."

Proof of this is one company's faith

on its graduates. Procter & Gamble Philippines particularly picks graduof Administration (UPCBA) who ates of UPCBA (BA and Accounting)

> "The college is a source of future and the president and general manager of P&G.

"Many of our managers in the company who came from UPCBA have shown exemplary leadership qualities, provided innovative ideas, originality, and resourcefulness," Cua said.

The spirit of UPCBA lives on long after its alumni left school. Its distinguished alumni have emerged with colorful careers in their chosen path either by providing jobs or excelling in their own fields. They have etched their names as leaders and credible influences in the community.

The following are only a handful of alumni who validate the true mission of UP-

CBA. These are just some of the Distinguished Alumni Awardees of 2001 until 2003.

Entrepreneurs

Roberto P Alingog, the president diolin said. "It is already a contribut- and CEO of the Philippine Rural Banking Corp. A BSBA graduate, he set up Ropali Stores, which sells agri-UPCBA has provided a venue for cultural machinery and equipment in Isabela. He was awarded the Most Outstanding Filipino Entrepreneur in 1994 by the National Economic Protectionism Association, Most Outstanding Isabelino: Entrepreneur Category in 1996 by the local gov-

Johnlu G. Koa is better known as

the founder of French Baker. As a stadent he was known for his dynamism. He was recognized as an outstanding student leader before graduating cum laude (BSBA) in 1979 He completed his MBA in the of Chemical Engineering from UP, college live years later. He also taught Marketing and Business Policy and served as College Secretary for five years. He was a recipient of the Dr. Jose P Rizal Award for Entrepreneurship

Salvacion U. Levenberger is instrumental in promoting the flower industry in Davao. Leuenberger esrablished her own accounting firm in Davao. She has a degree in BSBA. Her love for flowers led her to set up an orchid business in Daveo. She has been significantly involved with Picpa for many years and served as national president in 1991

Conchita L. Manabat is a BSBA graduate who found her way in several top business firms. She is a managing partner of CL Manabat and Co, which is the Philippine member firm of Deloitte Touche Tomatsu. She also serves as a part-time dean at the St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

Jose L. Poe Jr. has a BSBA degree before pursuing Law. He is best known for providing jobs with his janitorial services company and security agencies like Jaguar, El Tigre, Leopard, and Puma. For 25 years, Poe was able to employ 50,000 peo-

Professional Managers

Flordelis Francisco-Aguenza now sits as the president and COO of the Planters Development Bank. She began her career in the banking sector after obtaining a degree in BS Business Administration from UPCBA. Over two decades ago, she joined the Planters Development Bank as con-



UP's new president targets P5 billion for Centennial Fund

EMERLINDA R. ROMAN, UP's newly elected first woman president, plans to create a Centennial Commission to oversee a fund-raising campaign to raise 95 biltion to fund projects and programs for the school.

She said resources are needed to fund scholarships, faculty development programs, modernization of facilities to transform the state university into a world class university.

"The university will strengthen its links with alumni, friends, industry partners and other stakeholders and engage them in an active and vigorous campaign for resource generation."

A BS Agriculture graduate from UP Los Baños in 1972, Roman obtained her masrer's degree in agribusiness management from UP Diliman in 1977 and her doctor-UP Diaman in 1989.

She went on to teach business administration, and through the years held various administrative positions: faculty regent (1995), university secretary (1988-1991), vice chancellor (1985-1988) and chancellor of UP Diliman, a position she held in 1991-93 and from 1999 to the present.

She also served as chair, Department of Business Administration, College of Business Administration from 1997 to 1999. She was director of Undergraduate Studies, UP College of Business Administration, 1980-1986. She was secretary of the

College, UP College of Business Administration, 1976 to 1980 and 1892 to 1984.

With a slx-year term, Roman holds the added distincnon of being UP's centennial president since the country's premier university will celebrate its 100th foundation anniversary in 2008.

She will replace outgoing UP president Francisco Nemenzo who will officially retire on Feb. 9, 2005.

She said under her leadership, UP will secure its place as the "national or premier institution of higher learning in the country and at the same time assert its position in the international academic community."

With this objective, Roman will pursue a 10-point agenda or strategies that include developing other UP constituent universities into centers of excellence, mobulzaate in Business Administration also from tion of the UP scientific community to undertake research to build up the country's science capacity, and developing UP into a community of scholars with academic credentials or having a faculty pool with doctoral degree holders.

Roman's 10-point plans will also pursue the strengthening of faculty development program of elementary and high schools and state colleges and universities.

In relation with this, she will also undertake the development of all UP campuses as Centers of Culture and Languages.

"Constituent universities must be at the

CENTENNIAL/ N7



b

WE warmly welcome back the Golden Jubilarians (Class gresswoman Cynthia Villar, president Francisco Nemenzo Awardees and thanks to the Board of Judges consisting of reetings! 1954), Silver Jubilarians (Class 1979), and Ruby Jubilarians (Class 1964), the alumni of the 90s, and the MBA and Doctoral degree graduates of the College, We also welcome former colleagues in the faculty who are joining this homecoming.

We give special thanks to Senator Manuel B. Villar, Jr. for his help in the renovation of the college building and for finding the time on this occasion to unveil the marker for the Undergraduate Studies Center together with Con-والمتعارض والمتعارض والمتع

and chancellor Emerlinda R. Roman.

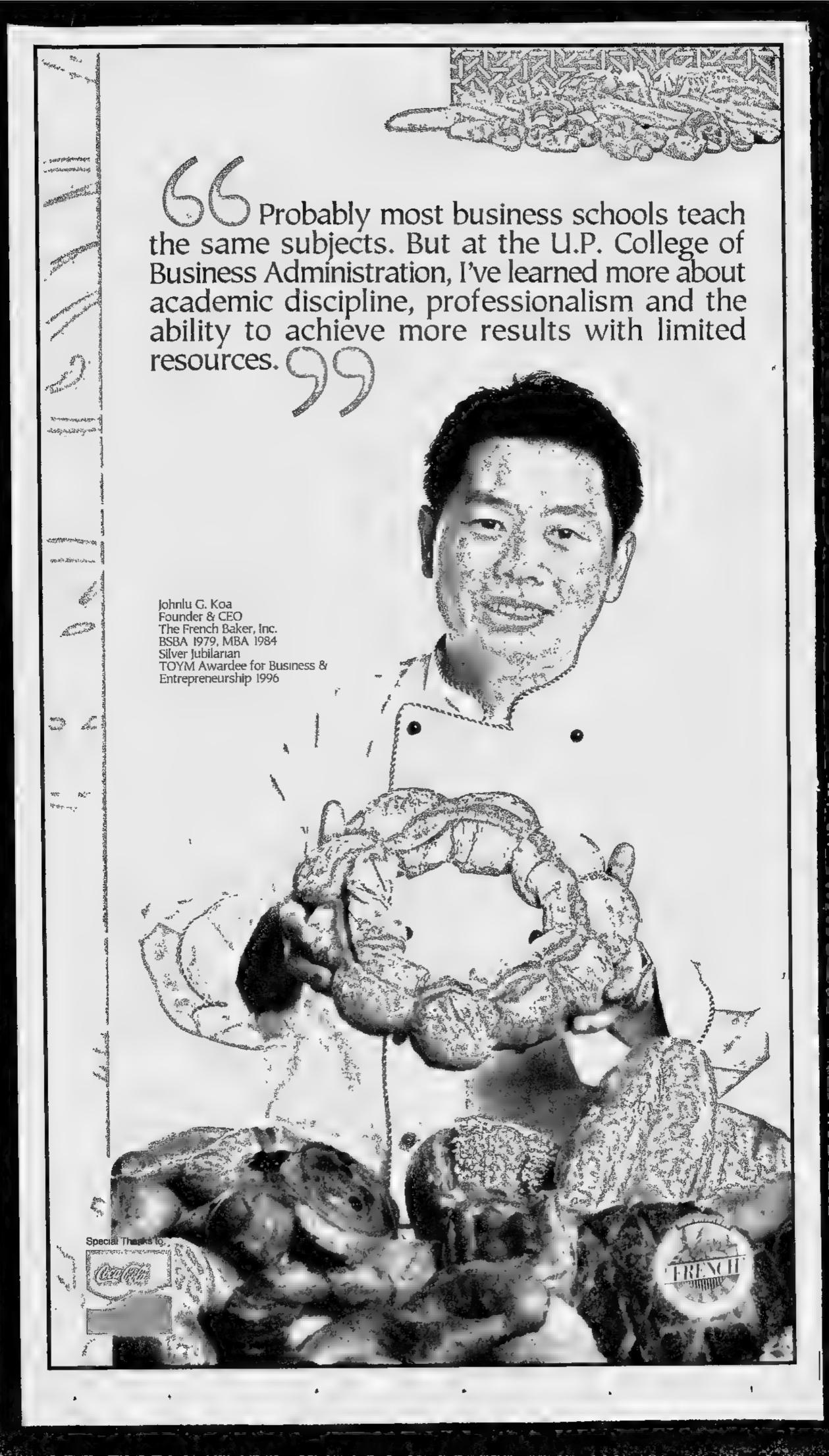
Our gratitude also goes to our generous alumni donors who made possible the renovation of our lecture rooms, namely: the Jardiolin Family, Class 1954, Class 1967, Class 1970, and the UP MBA Alumni Society and, to Mr. Johnlu G. Koa's donation for the establishment of The French Baker, Inc. Professorial Chair.

Congratulations go to our Distinguished Alumni

our beloved chancellor of U.P. Diliman, Dr. Emerlinda R. S Roman, UPAA president General Jaime de los Santos, and The Prench Bakef CEO/general manager Johnlu G. Koa.

I also thank the college alumni homecoming committee chaired by professor Dani Rose Salazar and professor Michellene Cruz.

(Sgd.) ERLINDA S, ECHANIS



Special PROJECT

UPCBA celebrates 88th Year

sultant

Bayani S. Aguirre has been involved with the United Nations Development Programme, Bank at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, and he was assigned as the Country Programme Director/Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in Su-

Eduardo R. Aivarez, BSBA and MBA graduate is the president and CEO of Orbi Metro Leasing and Finance Corp since 1989. He served as the president of Finex and its Research and Development Foundation. Alvarez, earned a Dean's Award for his role in the establishment of the Development Center for Finance.

Ma. Victoria B. Añonuevo weaves a colorful career after graduating cum laude of the BSBA in 1971. She completed her MBA at the top of her class. While teaching, she co-authored a textbook on Marketing Management. In 1996, she joined the Ayaia Group becoming the general manager of Roxas Land Corp. Afionuevo attended the Program for Management Development at the Harvard Business School in Boston a year after. She is now a vice president at Ayala Land Inc.

Antonio M. Cailao current, y holds the posttion of managing director of Asia e-bank and Commercial Banking Group of Fleet Boston Financial. He obtained his undergraduate and MBA degrees from UPCBA. He established a successful career with Citibank becoming its World Corp group head of Citibank Seoul and Caracas, Valenzuela. He was also the Asia regional head for trade in Citibank Hong Kong and Asia region head for Pan Asia

Flondo P. Casuela served as president of the Land Bank of the Philippines in 1998. He took up his business and MBA degrees from UP He was a manager and eventually a vice president

at the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company. He Kennedy School of Government at the Harvard is now a senior adviser for Philippine National

Corazon R. Estrella, the current executive vice president and chief financial officer of the 1st E-Bank has an illustrious career in the private sector. A BSBA graduate, Estrella is also the consultant to the Asian Development Bank for its Program to Accelerate Small and Medium Enterprise Financing. She also sits as a member of the board of directors of the PNOC Energy Development Corp.

Aurora Mauricio-Rubin is the global director of Risk Management at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. She finished her BSBA from CBA. She started as a senior research and training specialist at SGV & Co before moving to New York to join the office of Deloitte Haskins & Sells Rubin became DTT's first director for risk management. She also served at the International of Auditing Services and the pational director of Accounting and Auditing Professional Development.

Government / Public Service

Estelita C. Aguare rose from the ranks at the Bureau of Internal Revenue, starting out as a Revenue Examiner. She then became the Deputy Commissioner. She also became a member of the Board of Accountancy at the Professional Regulation Commission

Lilia R. Bautista was a former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission. She was a Dewitt Fellow at the University of Michigan, and a Prentice Hall scholar at the New York University in Corporate Finance and Reorganization.

Emilia T. Boncodin is the beloved Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management. A BSBA and Accounting graduate, Boncodin joined DBM in 1979 as a member of the Technical Staff of the Development Budget Coordinating Committee. She earned her Mas-

University. She was one of the Ten Outstanding Women in the Nations Service in 1995 and Presidential Golden Heart Awardee in 1998.

Rep. Junie B. Cua is the champion of education with his initiatives geared roward the development of public school teachers and scholarships for students. He is a four-term representative for the Lone District of Quirino. He was appointed Presidential Assistant for Northern Luzon in 1998, and Presidential Action Officer for the Central East Asian Growth Circle Program in 2001.

Dakila B. Fonacier served as the Commissigner of the Internal Revenue until 2001. He was a full-time member of the faculty of the college and earned his MBA from the Northwestern University under a Pulbright and Ford Foundation grant. He served in the Ministry of Trade, Natural Resources, and Budget. He is also a successful businessman with Odyssey Records.

Rep. Roilo Golez of the lone district of Parafiaque topped his MBA class from the college. He graduated with distinction from the US Naval Academy in Amapolis major in Machematics and Operations Analysis. He had been an elected member in Congress. He held key positions in the government being the National Security Adviser and Director General of the National Security Council under the Arroyo administration. He was voted Most Outstanding Congressman in 1995.

Romulo L. Neri graduated magna cum laude and class valedictorian with a BSBA degree major in Marketing. At the University of California Los Angeles, he complered his MBA major in Finance and International Management. He used to teach at UPCBA right after graduation. Neri has been a key figure in various private firms sitting in finance-related posirions. He is now a familiar figure being the ters in Public Administration from the current Secretary of Socio-Economic Plan-

ning and Director General of the National Development Authority.

Melito S. Salazar Jr. is now the president of Finex. He earned his BSBA and MBA from CBA. After graduating, he became a member of the faculty until 1999. For many years, Salazar served as a director of the UP Institute of Small Scale industries. He was undersecretary for Industry and Investment and Governor of the Board of Investments. He has authored 15 papers which were eventually included in books published in Asia and Europe. He was awarded the UPAA Professional Award for Management, UPCBA Public Service Award, and the Outstanding Negrense Award.

Sen. Manny Villar and wife Rep. Cynthia Villar could be just two of the most successful UPCBA alumni in government service. Senator Villar, however, also qualifies to be one of the most successful entrepreneurs who is a product of the college. His success story is an open book. His recognition is endless: TOYM, Agora for Marketing Management, Most Outstanding CPA, and Most Outstanding UP

Military

Former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya was an MBA graduate of the UPCBA. He was commissioned in 1971 upon graduation from the US Military Academy. At West Point he was a consistent Dean's Lister and the only Filipmo Cadet to hold the rank of Cadet Captain. He holds an MS Degree in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

Lt. Gen. Ja me de los Santos is the Commanding General of the Philippine Army. He is a PMAer and a graduate of the UP MBA Class of 1974. He is the first Filipino and Asean national to command a UN-led multinational force in East Timor. He is currently the president of the UP Alumni Association and a member of the UP Board

Sen. , Manny Villar and wife Rep. Cynthia Villar could be just two of the most successful **UPCBA** alumni in the government



EDGAR B. AGLIPAY Police Director General Philippine National Police



GRACE DEL ROSARIO-CASTAÑO President and Managing Director Johnson & Johnson (Phils.), Inc.



DOMINADOR V. GREGORIO, JR Retired; Partner & Managing Director SGV&Co., 1969-1990









JESSE M. ROBREDO Mayor Noga City



JOEL L. TAN-TORRES Portner, SGV&Co. Philippine National Police



MA, ANA ELIZABETH P. VALENCIANO President



CYNTHIA A. VILLAR Representative Las Plācs City

1003 Distinguished Alumni Awardees

service.

MARCISO LABAYA Check of Stalf
Armed Porces of the Philippines

ESTELITA C AGUIRRE Deputy Commessioner Bureau of Internal Revenue Member of the Sound of Accountable; Professional Regulation Commission

CORAZON R ESTRELLA
Executive vice President & CNO
1 x E-Bank
Member of the Board of Directors
PNOC Energy Development Corporation

SACVACION J. LEUENBERGER Presidents General Managor SLE Orchids

ROMULO L. NEGI Desegor General ereic and Develops

2002 Distinguished Alumni Awardees

BAYANIS, AGUIRRE Internazional Development Consultata

ROBERTO PALINGOG President and CEO Philippine Roral Banking Corporation

EDUARDO B. ALVAREZ President and CEO
ORIX METRO _easing and Finance Corporation

MAL VICTORIA EL AÑONUEVO Vace President Leieure & Lifescyle Communities Group

EMILIATE BONCODIN Secretary

Department of Budget and Management

JOSE ROILO S. GOLEZ National Security Adviser & Durctor General National Security Council

> JOHNLUG, KOA CEO & General Munager French Baker, Inc. JOSE L. POE, JR.

Charmana Ementus Joe Pae & Sops, Inc. MELITOS, SALAZAR, JR.

Member, Maneury Bourd Bangko Sentral og Pilipinas MANUEL B. VILLAR Senator Senate of the Philippines

2001 Distinguished Alumni Awardees

PLORDELIS FRANCISCO-AGUENZA President and COO Planters Development Bank

LILIAR, BAUTISTA Chairman
Securities and Enchange Commission

ANTONIO M. CAELAO Managing Director
Asia e-Bank and Commercial Banking
Group of Flee Boson Financial

FLORIDO E CASUELA Seasor Advisor Philippine National Bank as the Bangito Sentral og Pulspurias

JUNEE E. COA. Representative Lose District of Quarter, 12th Congress

> JABAES, DE LOS SANTOS Commending General Plubppine Army DAKILA B. FONACIER

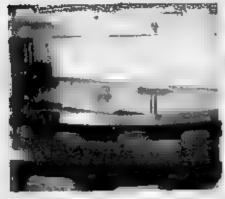
Public Servanz and Engrepreneur Odyssey Records VICTORIA RELIGIARDIOLIN

CEO. Entreprender Confetts Shoes and Notashe CONCHITEAL MANAHAT Managing Pintner C.L. Manabar & Co.,

AURORA MAURICIO-RUBIN

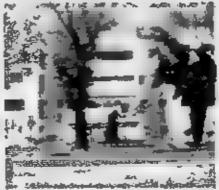
Unfolding

ofexcellence











edge the years of struggle, tri- BS degrees and MBA programs. umph, and pride than on its 88th founding anniversary. A lucky year for some but for the UP Col-(UPCBA) every year is a cause for celebration for every effort, within its community.

cente Singson, Teodoro Yangeo, Masters of Science in Industrial and Francisco Ortigas and the approval of then UP president ignacio Villamor, the two-year course (leading to Bechelor of Science in Commerce) was introduced. The year was 1916. Through the years, the college has now evolved to become the premier business school in the

more fitting time to acknowl- dards of quality education in its

In the years leading to 1928, attempts were initiated to push for an independent School for lege of Business Administration Business Conrado Benitez had the opportunity to become the first dean of the UP College of development, and achievement Business Administration. Years later, the college awarded its Thanks to the efforts of Vi-very first graduate degree in Engineering.

In 1940, Gil J. Puyat became the second dean of the college.

From then on, the college saw several transformations, innovations, and developments both tangible and in the professional aspect with a brief interruption during World War II. In 1947, a

THERE could have never been a country setting the highest stan- year after classes resumed, Jose Business in cooperation with the E. Velmonte sat as dean of the College of Agriculture, BS in

> the success of the courses and programs showed remarkable results. With this premise, new programs like the Doctoral Program in BA, Master of Agri-Business Management program, and the five year Bachelor of Science in BA and Accountancy were introduced.

Lorenzo served as the dean of ing. the college followed by Cesar EA that the college celebrated its golden anniversary.

The college also instituted programs like the BS in Agri- cided to recruit new faculty with

Business Economics in coopera-In its reopening after the war, tion with the School of Economics, BS in Hote, and Restaurant Administration in cooperation with the College of Home Economics. This was done in 1969 under the leadership of Dean Jaime C. Laya.

Dr. Emmanuel T Velasco succeeded Dean Laya in 1975. He From 1959 to 1961, Jovino S. construction of the new build-

At the dawn of the '80s, Dr. ter for Finance. Virata. It was in Virata's time Magdaleno B. Albarracin Jr. became the 8th dean of the col-

To be able to have a competifull-time MBA program and joint nive faculty, the college also de-

doctoral degrees, faculty fellow- actively pursuing support for ship for junior faculty, and postdoctoral fellowships for senior ty through linkages with univerfaculty in major universities in Canada through the grants from

Dr Cesar G. Saldafia took his oath in 1986. The Philippine Management Review was launched, a the college faculty.

By the year 1992, Prof. Rafael took the task of overseeing the A.Rodriguez sat as dean and initiated linkages with the industry through the Development Cen-

> Dr. Elvira Zamora is the first woman dean of the college. She continued the initiatives of dean Rodriguez to establish linkages with the business sector.

Today, dean Erlanda Echanis is colleges abroad.

doctoral studies for junior faculsities abroad, Formal curricular reviews were undertaken and revisions introduced to update and strengthen further the college degree programs.

Unstoppable could be an unvenue for the research outputs of derstatement with the progress of the college. International and tocal ties were forged with private companies and institutions, business oriented non-governmental organizations, and long-term relationships with its alumni-

As part of the international academic community, the college has joint research programs and active student and faculty exchanges with universities and

UPCBA ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2004

Arogram of Activities

10:30 a.m.

Registration of Alumn, faculty and guests Tour of the Building

11:00 a m

Inauguration of Alumni-Sponsored Classicoms

- Jardiolin Lecture Room by Dr. Victoria Bello-Jardiolin
- UPCBA Class 1954 Lecture Room by UPCBA Class 1954 UPCBA Class 1967 Lecture Room by UPCBA Class 1967
- UPCBA Class 1970 Lecture Room by UPCBA Class 1970
- UPCBA Class 1979 Lecture Room by UPCBA Class 1979 UPMBA Alumni Society Lecture Room by the UP MBA
- Alumni Society, Inc.

11:30 a.m.

Unveiling of Marker - Undergraduate Studies Center (3rd Floor, UPCBA Building) Senator Manuel B. Villar, Jr., Congresswoman Cynthia A. Viliar UP President Francisco Nemenzo, and UP Diliman Chancellor Emerlinda R. Roman

12:00 nn-1:30 p.m. LUNCHEON PROGRÂM

Master of Ceremony: Ms. Bernadette Sembrano and Prof. Benjamin Sandoval

- Invocation Dr. Lina J. Valcarcel
- Introduction of Alumni Classes / Welcome Message Dean HErlinda S. Echanis
- Keynote Address Senator Manuel B. Villar, Jr. Musical Number by UP Singing Ambassadors
- Entertainment Number from Manila Genesis
- Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony President Francisco
- Nemenzo Chancellor Emerlinda R. Roman
- Awarding of Medals to Jubilarians Dean Erlinda S. Echanis
- Turnover of Donations:

The French Baker, Inc. Professorial Chair by Johniu G. Koa, Pounder & CEO

2:00 p.m. Group Picture Taking of Jubilarian Classes

The UP Business Research Foundation Inc

Foundation Inc was established at the initiative of the alumni of the UP College of Business Admunistration. The purpose of this is to encourage and assist research in the business and management sciences towards a more effective operation of industrial, agricultural, commercial, and government enter

Fanny Cortes-Garcia, Jame C. Lava, Pio P. Pedrosa, Juan D. Ouintos, and Cesar E.A. Virata

were the incorporators. It was first certified by the National Science Development Board on December 19, 1971 as a corporation organized for scientific advancement within the purview of Republic Act No. 2067, as amended by Republic Act

ed various programs con-

On October 29, 1971, the sistent with the following UP Business Research stated corporate objec-

To finance projects and programs dedicated to the pursuit of new learning, investigation and/or experiment in the management sciences, leading to a better understanding of industry, agriculture, commerce, and other sectors of the Philippine economy.

To encourage and underwrite researches and studies on the teaching of the managerial and business aspects of the industry, agriculture, commerce, and other sectors of the economy, including financial management, marketing management, production and operations management, agribusiness, and busness economics.

To establish scholarships and professorial chairs in the management sciences, business the foundation support- administration, and re-

To provide the machinery through which a systematic exchange of information and views can be made among indiassociations, corporations, and entities, be they governmental or private, who or which are concerned with the promotion and propagation of the managerial aspects of industry, agriculture, and commerce.

To publish and distribute, or cause to be published or distributed, without profit, books, information, case studies, statistics or data on business and management and and related subjects, as a result of studies, researches, and projects made thereon.

To ecoperate with private government or public institutions in underconducting and/or sponsoring projects and/or programs, seminars, training sessions, and conferences



UPBRF president, former UPCBA dean

dedicated to the promotion, propagation and enhancement of business and management sci-

To assist in strengthening the library, laboratory other facilities, teaching, and research capabilities of public or private institutions and foundations of like or similar objectives, alone or in conjunction with

The UPBRF is also responsible for the establishment of Professorial Chairs which help assure the continuance and im-

provement of teaching and research in business management. A chair may be established with an endowment fund to be managed by the foundation. The income from the fund shall provide financial support to deserving faculty member of the UPCBA. The Professorial Chairs are named in honor of filustrious alumni or prominent representatives of



JAIME C. Laya, UPBRF **Board of Trustees** member and former UPCBA desur

private business and public management sectors. The chairs may also carry the name of the company sponsor.

1st UP president from CBA

Dr. Emmanuel V. Soriano is the first UPCBA faculty to be appointed UP president by the UP Board of Regents. He studied Engineering at the University of the Philippines and obtained a Doctorate in Business Administration from Harvard University. He was a member of the faculty of the UP College of Business Administration teaching Business Policy.



APMC ensures maintenance and appreciation of Ayala Communities



One of the best things about owning an Ayala property comes long after

acquiring the keys to the front door. Property management ranks high among the priorities of the country's top real estate firm. Superior quality attracts new buyers, but it's the after sales service that keeps them there, often eager to have more.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Ayala Land, Ayala Property Management Corporation (APMC) plays a major part in ensuring that Ayala properties maintain and even appreciate in value over time, better than other comparable developments. APMC provides property management services for residential condominums, shopping centers, subdivisions, parking structures, waterworks operations and other projects developed by Ayala Land and its subsidiaries.

With 28 years of property management experience behind it, APMC shows a marked advantage with a network of professional property managers - all meant to continuously improve and enhance property values.

The Property Concierge

Among APMC's wide array of services, the property concierge demonstrates a strikingly personal aspect to service. At any time of the day, every day, APMC's concierge staff caters to a wide variety of needs any homeowner might have.



The property concierge can facilitate:

- Reservations of village/building facilities (social hab, tennis court, basketball court, etc.);
- Plumbing, electrical, sanitary and appliance installation needs;
- Aircon cleaning, grease trap cleaning and pest control,
- Housekeeping services;
- Tenancy management;
 Leasing/Brokering;
- Provisions for a directory of community services including information on hotels, restaurants, movie schedules, mass schedule of the nearest parish, daily weather bulleun, cable subscription, phone installation, telephone numbers of fast food outlets and emergency numbers (police, fire department, nearest hospital); and
- Provisions for a directory of pre-qualified, reliable contractors and suppliers for purified or mineral water, LPG, laundry/dry cleaning and courier services;
- Coordination with party organizers/ suppliers

Better amenities

Aside from the concierge, another manifestation of the property management team's continuous innovation is its constant improvement of amenities and services.

Innovation also comes in the form of fun activities designed to foster camaraderie and friendly relations among residents. Parties for occasions like Easter, Halloween and Christmas are organized for the residents, with activities like an egg hunt, a magic show and a pupper show, and other games to desight participating kids.

In its effort to continuously look for energy conservation initiatives for more efficient operations, APMC also constantly monitors utilities consumption and introduces new building technologies that will reduce operation costs.



Always aiming for the continuous maintenance and appreciation of property values, APMC and its excellent property management efforts help put Ayala communities a notch above competition, APMC works to ensure that buyers who decided on an Ayala Community are happy and confident that they made the right decision.















FOR THOSE

WHO KNOW THAT

ONLY THE BEST THINGS

APPREC ATE

THROUGH TIME,

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UPCBA students consistent winners in major competitions

In Accounting, Finance & Marketing

ministration has once again confirmed its place as the top busiexceptional skills and intelligence as they bagged three major prizes in various educational competitions.

6th Intercollegiate Finance Competition (ICFC) made it the first school to win three times since its launch in 1999. The team which is composed of Maria Andrea Antonino, Mary Grace Dumalang, Ryan Norman Lim, Judie Mae Montegrico, and Myrose April Victor earned a score of 840 points. The competition is sponsored by the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex)

In the 5th PANAF (Philippine National Association of National Advertisers Foundation) Marketing Communications Compe tinon, the college's representatives won over other finalists from 12 colleges and universities. The team who grabbed the Communications Marketing Award are: Darlyn Sandra Y. Ty, Charlene Alice C. Coyukiat, Jeoffrey Mervin P. Estaris, Nicardo M. Falcis II, and Maureen H. Va-

In the recently concluded Certified Public Accountants Board exam, examinees from the colspots. Summa cum laude Kris- from CBA won Most Outstand-

THE UP College of Business Ad- tine Lourdes Darang safely secured the No. 1 slot.

For four consecutive years ness school in the country. Its since 2001, UPCBA is the recipistudents have shown this early ent of the Professional Regulahon Commission Board of Accountancy Awards for consistently topping the board exams.

UPCRA students prominently The win of UPCBA Diliman figured in major competitions, meived awards in and outside the university, and even abroad.

The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines has given Jennifer Louise S. Magdamit the Best Individual Presenter Award last year while Duke Bajenting was selected to participate in the Singapore International Foundation-Asean Visiting Fellowship in 2002.

Darwin Renolayan is awarded by the Young Entrepreneurs Organization as one of the Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students of 2004 for his business E-MAGES Multimedia Services.

The UP Junior Marketing Association was named Most Outstanding Student Organization last year, while this year the recognition was awarded to the UP Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants by the university's annual Gawad Chanselor.

CBA students captured the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry Contest since 2001 until 2003. Duke Bajenting is the 2001 Most Outstanding Student. lege grabbed 11 of the Top 20 From 2001 to 2003, students



FROM left: Editha Acedera (adviser), Raymund Acedera (adviser), Nicardo Falcis II, Darlyn Sandra Ty, professor Benjamin Sandoval (team manager), jeoffrey Mervin Estaris, Charlene Alice Coyuldat, and Maureen Valencia.



ing Accounting Team.

In this year's Agora Youth Awards, CBA valedictorian Karla while the UP Junior Marketing As- standing Marketing Student standing Students of the Philip-

Student Marketing Organization. IV and Jennifer A, Non in 2003. The Philippine Marketing Associ-Aurora C. Soliman is included in ation also recognized students of the Ten Outstanding Students the college by awarding Out-

sociation is named Outstanding Award to Jose Ma. Arturo Castillo

Two years ago, one of its students, Dionne Marie M. Sanchez was named one of the Ten Out-

FROM left; Professor Art Cayanan (one of the coaches), Judie Mae Montegrico, Myrose April Victor, Mary Grace **Dumalagg, Andrea** Antonino, dean Erlinda S. Echanis, Ryan Lim, Franch Isaac (Finex president), UPCBA team coaches: Michellene Cruz, Dr. Raymund Francis Abara, professor Dave Borja, jude Doljente, Pedro de Ocampo, and Dani Rose Salazar.

pines which was sponsored by RFM, Rotary Movement, CHED, and National Bookstore Inc.

Procter and Gambie Award has given excellence awards to the codege's best students since 2002.

The UP MBA Alumni Society Inc

thought of organizing an association by with they could continue keeping in touch with one another. Also, one of the objectives is to propagate professionalism and management excellence. This gave birth to the idea of organizing the UP MBA Society,

UP MBA graduates got together and executed the Amended Articles of Association of the University of the Philippines Master of Business Administration Alumni Society Inc. (UPMBA-ASI)

Led by Narciso dela Merced, the society initially

IN THE EARLY 1970s, several UP MBA graduates focused on promoting goodwill and networking.

From 1983 to 1986, during the economic upheaval many of the graduates joined one protest after another. The other members concentrated on pursuing their careers that eventually led to the society taking a break.

After the People Power Revolution, a number of On December 3, 1973, a pioneering group of six UP MBA Alumni once more got together to revive the society and elected a new set of officers.

On May 22, 1990, 14 UP MRA Ahmmi fed by Manuel Viliar Jr. now a senator, worked on amending its by-laws. The group established the identity of the society through the designation of

the logo or seal as well as membership requirements, electoral procedures and board directorships. Hand in hand with this was the visioning exercise by which the society developed its mission

Since then, the society has evolved into a more socially involved organization tackling critical issues affecting the country. It became active in various civic activities and seminars. It has maintained close ties with the UPCBA though the UPMBA Professorial Chair and donations. The society also sponsors and donates awards for the Top Ten UPC-BA graduates. The society president also partici-

pates as an ex-officio member of the board of directors of the UP Business Research Poundation and the UP Alumni Association.

Led by current president Ching R. Evangelista ('80), the society on its 30th year is working for the establishment of the UPMBA Society Lecture Room in the CBA. Its activities now are raising funds in particular a golf tournament aptly called The 1st Manny Vinar Golf Cup. There will also be a series of seminars on good

The society looks forward to more years of meaningful, relevant and dynamic existence.



THE UP MBA Society recently held the 1st Manny Villar Cup at Wack Wack Golf to raise funds for the establishment of the UPMBA Lecture Room. Seen (from left) directors Arix Siwa, treasurer, Joy Locsin, Sally Magat, executive director Boots Mejia, Sen. Manny Villar, president director Ogy Ching Evangelista, Mantaring, past president Bimbo Salazar, directors Tony Evangelista, Pat Ferrer, Phoebe Torres, Robbie Fabian, Farley Aguilar, Noli Torres, Danny Alcoseba and Vic Torres.



Silver Jubilarians meet to discuss donation project

MEMBERS of the Silver Jubilarian Class composed of graduates of the BSBA and BSBAA Programs '79 recently met in the residence of Johnlu G. Koa. Members present were Porky San Juan-Calaquian, Joel Tan-Torres, Chito Sumabat, Patty Limpe, Jo Monzon, Johnny Delegencia, Marilou Ngo, Lorna Cruz Ambas, Bliss Tiu-delos Angeles, and Angelita Cruz. The class pledged to donate to the college a lecture room, to be inaugurated during the homecoming.



Special PROJECT

UP's new president targets P5 billion for Centennial Fund

From page N1

forefront of promoting culture, arts and languages in their respective regions," she said.

As to UP's governance and bureaucracy, Roman said she will pursue for the revision of the UP Charter to make it emphasize the role of the faculty and to remove barriers to the provision of fair and decent wages to the faculty and staff.

UP's bureaucracy will be re-engineered, structures and operations will be streamlined and UP will no longer engage from activities where it has no expertise or capability to undertake or detiver.

Roman served as chancellor of UP Dillman before being elected by the Board of Regents (BOR), UP's highest governing body, on Nov.

She won a 7-5 majority vote and edged out the ambassador to the United Kingdom and Palace candidate Edgardto Espiritu to become



UP DILIMAN chancesfor Emerlinda R. Roman with UP president Francisco Nemenzo at the Quezon Hall lobby after the Board of Regents Meeting selecting the new UP president.

UP's 19th president.

"This is a victory for the university," said Roman after the voting. In the campus, Roman is known for her leadership, integrity and work ethic. She's also known for her efficiency and coolness.



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Building gets facelift, thanks to donors

GBA building is now a validation of the college's commitment to further improve and develop its home.

From hopping to one neighbor college building to another, it found a home at the Benitez Hail in 1959 But it was in the mid-'70s that UPCBA finally had its own building to where it sits now. The construction was financed by the national government and the alumni led by then UP Business Alumni Association president Fanny Cortes-Garcia.

Today, incumbent Dean Erlinda Echanis has been very active in involving its alumniand generous donors for the modernization of the building and the training of the faculty.

The rooms to be inaugurated today are the Class 1954, Class 1967, Class 1970, Class 1979, UPMBA Alumni Society, and the Jardiolin Lecture Rooms.

securing that the UP modernization is fully implemented in CBA, expressed deep gratitude for the alumni and donors "who made pussible the renovation of our lecture rooms."

Each room in the five-storey building of CBA is maintained under generous donations of building sponsors who donate an endowment for its improvement and upkeep.

The 2004 UPCBA Alumni Homecoming has Honoree Classes of 1954 (Golden), 1959 (Sapplure), 1964 (Ruby), 1969 (Coral), 1974 (Pearl, 1979 (Silver), and the 1990s. UP Business Alumni Association president Al Guerzon, and UPMBA Alumni Society president Rosario Evangelista will be on hand to welcome the college's alumni.

In celebration of this year's Alumni Homecoming, Sen. Manny Villar will be inaugurating the Undergraduate Studies Center at the third floor of the CBA building. He will be

COMPARED to its humble beginnings, the UP- joined by Rep. Cynthia Villar, UP president Prancisco Nemenzo, and incoming UP pressdent Emerlinda Roman.

Efforts mount to step up advanced studies for faculty

IT was former Prime Minister Cesar Virata who actively lobbied for the faculty to obtain advanced studies abroad. The first recipients of these endeavor were Manuel S. Alba, Magdaleno B. Albarracin, Jaime C. Laye, Rafael A. Rodriguez, Emmanuel V. Soriano (UP president 1979), Anselmo Trimdad, and Emmanuel T. Velasco. It was also during Virata's time that the Master of Business Administration was offered in the college.

in order to compensate the untiring efforts of the faculty and to encourage them to further their studies, the UP Business Research Foundation Inc was established, also to create Dean Echanis who has taken the role of Professorial Chairs to recognize the achievements of the faculty members who have distinguished themselves in their fields of businesses. The Chairs provide supplemental resources to faculty members in teaching and research endeavors. The UPBRF has established 49 Professorial Chairs.

> UPBRF was conceived and established by the alumni of the UPCBA with the following as incorporators: Fanny Cortes-Garcia, Jaune C. Laya, Pio P. Pedrosa, Juan D. Quintos, and Cesar E.A. Virata.

> This year, alumni and successful entrepreneur Johnlu Koa is donating the French Baker Professorial Chair

On the other hand, faculty grant awards provide incentives to younger and promising members to do research or creative works.

Over the years, staff development programs were initiated with the college research and administrative personnel participating in continuing training seminars.



Editor Louie C. Camino

Assistant Editor Emmile G. Velarde

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'Ideal'SM' is not an USIY word

It's easy to be cynical, says Joel Torre, but he remains optimistic about local movies

TORRE, two decades after "Oro, Plata, Mata"

people who think show biz is all glamour and no hard work."

After more than 20 years in film acting, Joel has managed to avoid being seduced by the limelight and learned to relish show biz just the way it is. Giting the cynicism that plagues the industry, he says he can only strive to become an ideal human being without dropping the ideansm of his youth

"It's tough to talk about idealism now when everyone is so cynical, not just of the movie industry but of the entire country as well," he points out, "I think now is the time to test that idealism I am cynical about certain things, but the optimism remains. We just need to believe that, with all the bad things we read in the newspapers, there is something basically good in all of us, and we need to preserve that "

By Pablo A. Tariman Contributor

HE ACTOR from Bacolod City now wears many hats and he enjoys every one of them.

He is the father of two girls, Aila, 13, and Marela, 9. He is an entrepreneur, running a now very popular-dining place called JT Manukan Grille with his wife, Cristie. In between he acts in films and teleseryes.

Joel Torre has just finished portraying an unlikely character in "Marina," and appears as the leader of a guerilla group in the new Cesar Montano starrer, "Panaghoy Sa Suba" (Call of the River)

During this interview, he calls himself the glorified GRO (guest relation officer) of his 2-year-old restaurant along Valencia Street corner Gilmore in Quezon City

"In between acting assignments, I basically spend most of my time supervising this new business," Joel says.

Mesmerized by 'Oro'

He was only 21 when he appeared in the monumental Peque Gallaga film "Oro, Plata, Mata" in the early '80s "When we were shooting it, I knew it was going to be a classic. Now, more than 20 years later, I know why," he says. "I was mesmerized by its scope. I sensed it had a deeper message, even if at first you are dazzled by its sheer grandeur."

Joel's first film appearance was actually in Lino Brocka's "Gumising Ka, Maruja." Later he landed a cameo sole in Ishmael Bernal's "Pabling," where Peque was production designer. At the time, he was doing his "film and television internship" and commuting from the set of "Bilibid Boys" to that of the TV show "Tsampoy."

What he learned from Gallaga was to adhere to the spirit of any worthwhile project. "When you believe in what you are doing, you have to go all the way," he explains "That's still my attitude now-to commit fully to good projects."

Thus, he practically acts for a song in young filmmakers' projects, and gets carried away by non-commercial movies. He has taken small but substantial roles in the films of Lav Diaz—the four-hour "Westside Story" and the latest 10-hour "Evolution of a Filipino Family")

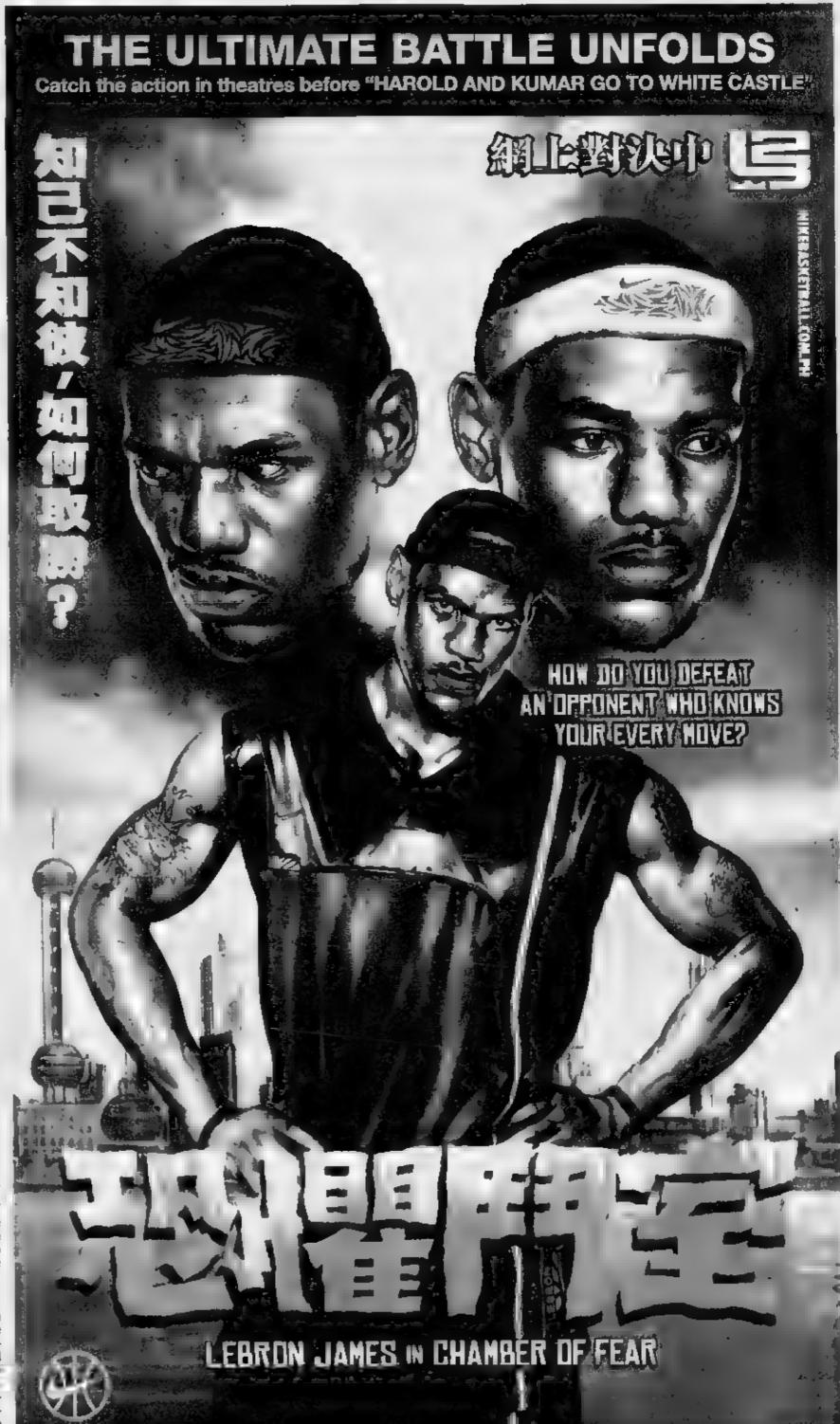
Deplorable state

The actor deplores the current lack of ideas in the "assembly line" that is local film production "We no longer bother with things that a film should communicate," he sighs. "The foremost consideration is, who's hot and who's not The vision of the filmmaker is set aside in favor of quickies that will bring in the money. This is why I am very happy that independent filmmakers persevere in spite of the lack of support from those who are supposed to protect the industry. When I do a proect, I want something good remembered about it. I want good ideas immortalized "

At the moment, Joel is most enthusiastic about "Panaghoy Sa Suba," which Montano also directs. He feels the film will revive enthusiasm for Visayan clnema which, in the past, were shown only in the region. "Now we will have a Visayan film competing in a Manilabased film festival, with big chances of attracting international attention. The trend in world cinema now is to be true to your own. To quote the late Quijano de Manila, 'To be regionalistic is to be foremost nationalistic.'"

Can't teach that

Joel actually started in theater when he was seven (he was active in the Masskara theater group run by Gallaga). Youngest in a brood of 13, Joel gave it leaves the man beautiful as a second of 13 and the last of the complete and develop the right attitudes," he says. "You can't teach that to



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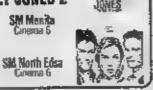
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> SHOW " TIME his Antonouse

Sponge Cola scores

THIS year has been great for Pinoy artists of every genre-pop, hip-hop, R&B and rock. Among dozens of emerging acts, Sponge Cola has risen above the college band citché and become a formudable part of today's rock

The group's muchanticipated furllength album, "Palabas," was released Sony Music Phinppines only last Oct. 18, but it's all sold out, with individual cuts landing ın Metro Manıla charts

STATE OF BUILDING terated rock, reminiscent of the 1990s "alternative" sound but laced with enough sing-along sensibili-

2 80 10 10 00 00 00

Sponge Cola's first two singles "Lunes" "Jeepney" are still big radio favorites. Notable tracks "Una," "KLSP," "Neon," and "To The Sly and Cunning" are included in this al-

Already hailed by crines as "the band to watch," "the next big thing," and "2004's Eraserheads," the group is made up of four college students from Ateneo-Yae. Yuzon, Armo, Gosh, and Chris Cantada whose songs evoke the turnoil of growmg up in a globalpostmodern zed, world.

Alabang raffle with Nyoy tonight

FRESH from a successful series of shows with "American Idol" finalist Jasmine Trias, Paolo Santos and Jay-R at the Paramount Theater in San Francisco and the Grand Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, Nyoy Volante and Mannos will treat their fans, to a free Christmas concert dubbed "Nyoy to the World" tonight at 7, ar the Polo Field of the Alabang Country Club. The concert is be-

ing held with Alabang Country Club's 14th Super Raffle, where the 26 major prizes include six cars and two roundtrip plane tickets to any point in Europe. Tickets to the show and raffle are

priced at P2,000. There will be free shuttle service from the Alabang Town Center to the Alabang Country Club for concert-goers.

The internationally renowned Mandaluyong Children's Choir and planist Martin Avila are also armin to 100 years

'Neverland' is best film

NEW YORK—"Finding Neverland," a biopic about Peter Pan creator JM Barrie starring Johnny Depp, has been named Best Film by the US National Board of Review (NBR)--widely viewed as a pointer to Oscar success.

Prizes handed out by the NBR, whose membership is a loose amalgam of movie historians and teachers as well as film professionals, herald the opening of the awards season which culminates with the Academy Awards at the end of February.

"Finding Neverland," which also stars Kate Winslet, imagines how Barrie derived the in-

spiration for his anduring Peter Pan tale.

The film took the number one slot in the NBR's top 10 films of 2004, beating another biopic, Martin Scorcese's "The Aviator" which stars Leonardo DiCaprio as troubled billionaire Howard Hughes.

Jamie Foxx took the Best Actor award for his lead performance in "Ray"—yet another biopic—about the life of the late blues legend, Ray Charles, while Annette Bening was named Best Actress for her role as an aging actress in the 1930s period piece, "Being Julia."

The awards are to be presented on January 11 at a ceremony in New York.

Other notable winners were Michael Mann, who picked up the Best Director award for the Tom Cruise thruler "Collateral" and

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JOHNINY Depp, Freddie Highmore In "Finding Neverland"

Charlie Kaufmann, who won Best Original Screenplay for "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

in the foreign film section, Spanish movies took the first two places, with "The Sea Inside," about Ramon Sampedro who fought a 30-year campaign to win the right to end his life, beating out the latest offering from Pedro Almodovar, "Bad Education."



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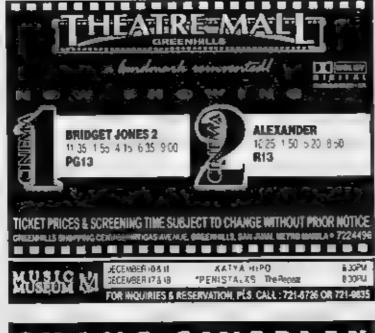
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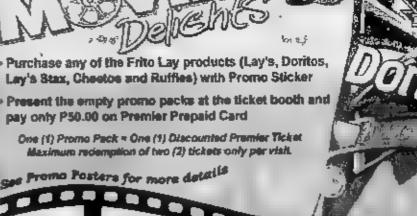
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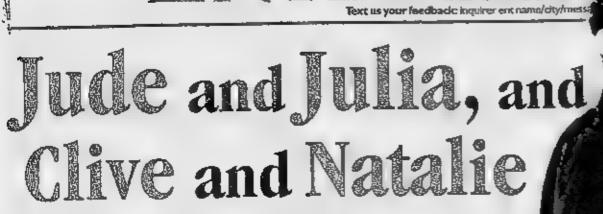
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Clive Owen and Natalie Portman fall giddily in love in "Closer," but don't be fooled. This is the furthest thing possible from a date movie.

These mordinately beautiful people end up doing extraordinarily ugly things to one another-Portman, all grown up and playing a stripper, commits some of her offenses in little more than a G-string-and the way they de-

NEW YORK—Jude Law and Julia Roberts and stroy each other and themselves is both brutal and breathtaking to watch.

The newest film from director Mike Nichols is reminiscent of his first, "Who's Afraid of Virginta Woolf?" from 1966, for the intensity of its performances and the rawness of its emotions. (Owen is especially scorching as Roberts' cuckolded dermatologist husband.)

"Closer" often has the claustrophobic vibe



LAW AND Roberts as beautiful people who do "ugly things" to one another

of a play---which is, in fact, the basis for the film: Patrick Marber adapted his London stage production for the script. And it closes in on melodrama toward the end, but not in a way that's unbelievable. If these people didn't already have drama in their lives, they'd have to manufacture

Flirting strangers

Wannabe novelist Dan (Law), whose day job consists of writing obstuaries, meets Alice (Portman) in a mesmerizing opening sequence in which the two characters walk toward each other, in slow motion, as strangers flirting from afar on a crowded London street. Suddenly, as Alice steps off the curb to cross the street, she's hit by a car (the young American for-

gets that traffic flows the opposite way in Britain) When she regains consciousness, the first thing she sees is Dan's flawlessly pretty face, and the two share a playful chemistry in the hospital waiting room and beyond.

Dan, by the way, is Law's "Alfie" character without the Prada wardrobe. He still manages to get whatever he wants simply through his good looks and charm. This makes him an ideal inhabitant of the film's parallel universe, where the regular rules don't apply and people just flirt with each other, pursue each other, fall in instant, insanable love with each other, chear on each other and then abandon each other with the eventual intention of getting back together with each other again.

Fast forward

When we see Dan a year later (the film jumps forward in time across a four-year period, and subtly fills in the gaps), he's living with Alice, he's written his novel and he's having his head shot taken for the book jacket by photographer Anna (Roberts, bleached blonde) in her clean, open loft. He kisses her because he feels like it-and the kiss is heartstopping because it's gentle and passionate at the same time, and because the people doing

Dan later dailies online in a sex char room, where he pretends to be a woman named Anna. (This part feels like a bit of a reach, as if Nichols is trying too hard to be edgy, but it's good for a laugh.) There he meets Larry (Owen), a doctor who's being truthful about his identity, and with whom he engages in incredibly graphic cybersex. The two agree to meet at an aquanum the next day andwhaddya know? Larry shows up and meets the real Anna, and they quickly fail in love.

Subsequent permutations find Anna maring Larry but having an affair with Dan, and the scene in which she admits her infidelityand Larry demands all the gory details, although he probably doesn't really want to hear them-is devastating.

Screwed up

"I'm disgusting," Anna whimpers, though she doesn't sound entirely contrite.

"You're phenomenal," Larry responds with awe and venom in his voice. "You're so

Alice moves out when Dan tells her of his affair with Anna and returns to her former life as a stripper. This allows for another painful scene from Larry, who comes in for a lap dance but ends up throwing money at her for information/comfort/you name it- he's so screwed up.

Not much hope seems to exist for these people, even if they can manage to forge some semblance of a happy ending, simply because too much damage has been done. For that reason alone, "Closer" is admirably honest.

Some also have hailed it as being the rare film about romance that's truly for adults. If that's true, I'd rather be a high-school kid again, making out in the back seat of a car, blissful in the thrall of adolescent ignorance.

Ex-mobster now a cop

LOS ANGELES-A mobster will be taking over for a cop on "Law & Order."

Michael Imperioli of "The Sopranos" will appear in the NBC drama while series star Jesse L. Marrin, who plays New York police Detective Ed Green, films the musical "Rent." NBC said Thursday.

Impenoli will play a police detective who teams up with his uncle, Detective Joe Pontana (Donnis Parina), in the final episodes of thus season.

"I'm glad to be on the right side of the law," Imperioli said in a statement. He won an Emmy this year for his portraya) of mob boss Tony Soprano's hard-luck nephew, Christopher Molasanti, on HBO's "The Sopranos."

Martin, in his sixth season on "Law & Order," was an original cast member of the Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning "Rent," playing the role of Tom Collins.

He'll return to the TV series next season, Mortin and "Law & Order" creator Dick Wolf said in a statement.

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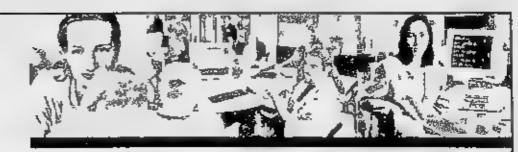
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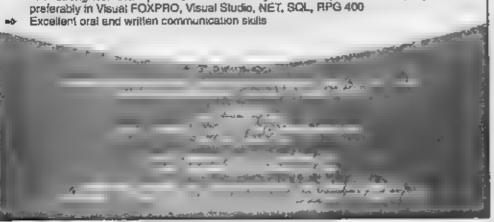
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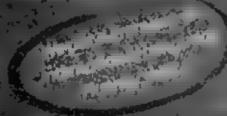
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Safeway Philtoch Inc. was established in 2003 as a subsidiary of Safeway Philtoch Holdings Inc. a subsidiary of Safeway Inc. Safeway Philtoch Inc. is one of the Development and Application Support Centres for Safeway Inc.

Safeway Inc. Is one of the largest food and thrug retailers in North America. It operates more than 1,800 stores in Western, Southwestern, Rocky Mountain, and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States and in Western Canada. In support of its stores, Safeway has an extensive network of distribution, manufacturing and food processing facilities.

Over the past year, Safeway Philibech Inc. has employed over 180 slotted employees. We are committed to building not only business solutions but also career options for our people. We offer career opportunities at every level, allowing such individual to explore new technologies and obtain experience in variety of applications. The apportunity for growth depends on one's ambition to drive to succeed. Softway Philtieth Inc. is committed to your success by providing

you with all the opportunities and training you need to feel challenged as well as the support you need to succeed. We guide our employees in exploring their options and mapping out their own paths for success. Continuos improvement, quality rapid growth, innovation are the words used to describe the company. These words also characterized the

employees who work together in providing high quality results. We are continuously tooking for people who will help us land the way. We challenge you to Join up in building tomorrow today To support our operations, we are looking for highly motivated and energetic IT professionals to assume the following positions.

Application Support Job Regularments Candidates are preferred to have a bachelors' degree in Computer Science or other related fluid or have attained a minimum of 3 years I.T. work experience in application support or maintenance. Must have sound technical analysis and problem solving skyls, Uphold strong interpressural qualities and has genuine desire to provide superior customer service to our I.T. customers. Have excellent written and oral

Mainframe, Cobol, CICS, DBZ, QMF, JCL, VSAM, TSO, CA7 Web/Java/Unix

Java, J2EE, Unix, Web

Security Administrator

Administration and Security background.

Knowledgeable in Mainframe, RACF, Units, Windows, Databases, Directory Servers and Applications to Implement access requests.

- Minimum 2 to 3 years of application support experience on mainframe MVS, midranga or equivalent systems.
- Experience with EDI translator applications or their party packages (e.g., GENTRAN)
 Mainframe programming stats in COSCI, MVS XCI/Dibbles, CICS, and job scheduling (CA7 or the aquivalent).
 Experience with Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) or the UCS Grocery Industry Standard.
- Experience with installing, maintaining, or using complex vendor packages (especially Sterling Software's GENTRAN:Basic, GENTRAN:Rus, Connect Enterprise and Connect Direct)
- Exposure to Procurement and/or Accounting/Pinancial applications. Exposure to web-based a-commerce systems. Experience with midrange platforms such as the AS400 and NT servers.

Helpdesk

Manimum 6 months world superiorice in a Call Cantur and with asculient communication stalks. Knowledge in basic PC troubleshooting is an adventage.

Candidates are preferred to have a bachelors' degree in Computer Science or other releted field or have attained a minimum of 5 years.

LT. work experience in application development. Must have excellent written and oral communication stalls. Have the desire to learn new skills, technologies and adapt to new information demands, Should have the ability to multi-test on many projects and priorities and be able. to handle situations that may come with delivery of critical applications. Applicants must be results griented, willing in take responsibility and accept accountability for action. He or she must be a creative thinker to terms of diagnosing and troubleshooting problems, identifying and

developing methods to automate/improve new/additing procedures.

- Java Developer Minimum 5 years application development experience on Java, 15P, Service, DB2 and Windows NT
- Minimum 3 years work experience in Web Development using Java
- Experience in Time and Attendance application is an adventage Must have an experience in developing web applications and accessing DS2

Systems Administrator

- 2 years experience Links System administration in large multi-server environments, Solaris and ALX experience required and Shell-
- acripting ability is redulred. Experience with DB2/UDBB, Informit or Teradata, Legeto, Vertes products, Websphere, MQ Series, IMC PATROL, Control-M or Control-SA, or iplanet products will all be advantageous

Rotali Quality Association

- RQA Tester

- Must have at least 5 months work experience in software QA testing.

 Knowledge in tell POS System, that Application is a plus.

 Retail Industry beckground is an advantage

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The role will include the set up of the departmental processes with sustainable and documented procedures going forward.

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- Manage the financial accounting and reporting functions for BPSI, including financial and statutory reporting; financial control, and gnifruccos tremegenem
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- Participate in invsiness planning and management, and manage
- execution plans as directed from time to time Ability to manage multiple departments
- Ability to work in conditions of ambiguity. Understanding of the US financial services, customer management
- and BPO/Contact Center success factors Good leadership skills and ability to motivate front-line employees Demonstrated skills at organizational and customer service
- planning and successfully executing against the plans. Demonstrated leadership states by providing direction, gaining commitment and inspiring various levels of associates and
- Demonstrated experience managing process and/or systems
- Expenence managing in a multi-citent environment Experience menaging fine employees in Philippines
- Ability to work electively across language and cultural barriers with US customers
- Understanding of financial aspects of ranning a business unit, wills. particular reference to strategic planning, problem solving, and integration of information.
- Strong negobation, planning, organizing and control shills Minimum four year college degree with CPA qualification.
- · At least 10 years prior experience required with at least 5 in management

Please submit your resume with 2x2 picture and TOR at the 8th Floor Philamlife Bullding, 1207 Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City or email us your resume at BPSI-APPLICANTS@AIG.COM.



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- > With at least 5 years work experience in fire protection works in a construction company
- > Must be a registered Mechanical Engineer

Electrical Engineer

- With at least 5 years work experience in an electro-mechanical construction company
- Must be a registered Electrical Engineer

Plumbing Engineer

> With at least 10 years work experience in a supervisory level for a mechanical construction firm

Graduate of any Engineering course With expenence in material procurement for construction

Purchaser

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- Graduate of any Engineering course Must be an accredited DOLE-BWC Safety Practitioner
- With at least 5 years work expenence in a construction firm
- Draftsman

> Graduate of any Engineering course or other related fields

At least 3 years work experience in mechanical, electrical and

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Asst. Administrative Manager

architectural drawings

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- Must have strong computer operation skills especially in various Microsoft Windows platforms and applications
- Persistent and with strong attention to detail



Please send a copy of your comprehensive resume with recent passport-size photo and Transcript of Records to

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc.
Human Resources Department
2nd Floor Techno Plaza One, 18 Orchard Road
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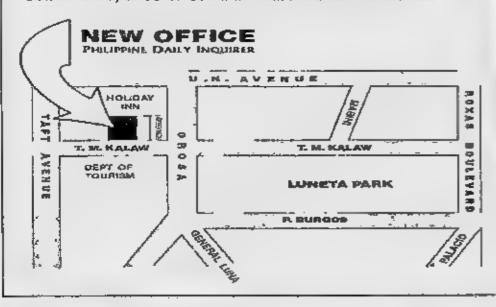
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improve the quality of the of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

The position appearages and coordinates administrative functions: establishes. monitors, said monitoring ecountry; records and around action to gindernal controls in supporting financial reporting, adaption in developing ADR's accounting policies and procedures by mondaring accounting and industry developments; and prepares beaucial statements and related accounting

Associate Accounting Analyst

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to this Financial Control Specialist, Financial Reporting and Analysis Section (CTAC-FRA), Controllar's Department (CTL).

Description of Responsibilities

- Supervises and reviews the work of subordinate staff in consolling. processing, mornitoring, and recording excounting data accurately and bridy, teams and develops submisherate knowledge and state through dely Work; and provides technical and procedural guidelines to subordinous admujistraliya staff
- Prepares or contributes to binancial statements and other reports and resures reports are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles practiced in the US, and one breefy and accurate assests in vehous financial applyais to mender and report on the injuried position of
- Reviews, analyzes and identifies computer requirements for effective and afficient processing and reporting ensures acturacy and rehability of
- systems; and valuetes or propulses enhancements Establishes, mentions and exercis appropriate and adequate contrals in property and mentalising accounting data, processing transactions and preparing reports, pacomonerada changes and reproventants to ansure than accurate, complete and propely accounting data and reports are prepared aiki macroned in complexes with ADB polices and practices and generally accounting principles;
- Monitors assistant belonices to ensure appropriate accounting treatments are applied and respective statements/reports are received and reconciled Britely and regularly: prepares and varies, as appropriate, reconcisions reports of exposents; textantables usual investment of discrepencies and espes for review by supervisor, complete, analyses and reviews financial and accountance close as a bases for the preparation of reports; energies the accuracy, passistency and proposity of supporting documentation for all dams, payments and other accounting transactions to compliance with eccepturing precipies, established procedures and guidalines, and ADB
- Munitors accounting and industry developments to coordinate and assist in developing and publishing occounting and related financial policies for ADS; provides cardance and monitors accounting entires and treatments used by yourses accounting arous to ansure appropriate accounting standards, policies, and proches are consistently applied in ADS; works with various accounting areas to esset and provide guidance in developing consistent accounting procedures, in line with the accounting policies,

 Coordinates and provides required editoristion in accordance with ostablished procedures, in a tectlef memor; and

Previous druft energy and automatic correspondence for separators reviews performs any other assignments as required.

Selection Criteria

- w anithinity to undertake the responsibilities muriscraid at this required level; a bechefors degree in Business Administration, major in Accounting Certified Public Accountent designature
- at least five years accounting expenence in a computational environment with some supervisory role in a large multinescopal Sherical organizations.
- good understanding of generally accepted accounting canceles and annealiss, nectositio to lineacial instruments and qualistational organization with multi-compacy severament:
- good understanding of a multileteral freshiption's accounting and financial policies, practices, procedures, guidalinos, and reporting requirements, good understanding of the business process work flows of related areas
- and the interaction sensing them to creatly incoming concepts to be applied appropriately:
- good interviedge of a large accounting system, profunitiv Oracle
- of profesency is application substant such as Oracle, Microsoft Excel, elemates, and to generate standard and ad hec brancal reports,
- ability to plets and coordinate schedules and requirements in order to symit
- M proven supervisory and interpresent shifts, and utility to provide feedback to subordinate support staff; II strong analytical, systematic and numerical stalls and great attention to
- W excellent and and written stalls in English

Established in 1986 and headqueriered in Marria, Philippines, ADE's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in historiagenerally rectarits its (national officers or administrative staff) locally from the Philippings. The position is for a finite your board-term appointment. AIRs offers a highly correpositive safety and benefits partiago applicable to local stall. While the position advertised is let ASB Headquarters in Standa, Philippones, ADB stall must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discriminal of

Apply electrosically, queeing Ref. No. EXT-ASS4-166(4)-CTAC-FBA and job trile on subjective and attacking application form available enhancement and any



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Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlessed quarticles well be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference matrice and job wife or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.



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The postupit is preparily responsible for assisting Financial, Administrative, and Information Systems Deviation (DAGF) professional stall in the ADB wade conduct of farancies administrative and operational and its with an emphasis on Treeouty and other consupercial banking products, management of working papers and necessity: preparation of the misse dealt ingest and final report. In purse cases the accumbent wild be responsible for executing eating eating under the supervision of one professional staff or Disocion (MGF

Reporting Arrangements

The gostaun reports depoty to one or more professional stall of the Office of the

Description of Responsibilities Audit Stretegy, Approach and Techniques.

- Considering to the officerant and unsely conduct of eaches by developing or baseling in developing Genthia audic plans, achedates and questionness as on the basis of preliminary evaluation of punktative, enformative and states and states at
- DESCRIPTION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON OF
- Personaging in formulating sampling procedures and archaigues.

- Executing or assisting in the assocition of audios in accordance with a suitable and approved such program) to assess convoluence with existing addicate, systems end procedures, racindary contracts and savongenouses, and standilying deliciencies and weaknesses in unernal controls by examining and enalyzing excepting computer and manual records, supports and any other supporting documentation, and
- Wentying and descriping any deficiencials or deviations identified with outlithes.

- 66 Ensuring the preparation of comprehensive and concess such reports containing fundames that describe the type and nature of deviations of deficiencies: Formulating recognized education and measures for extramistrative and procedural
- Decussory draft reports with outlites departments/offices, and . • Mondonny the status of recommendations and conducting the penocic follow-up
- audole saet godowes Assestance to External Applications,
- Conducting the examinetions of salected transaction in specific areas to assist the ADB's External Auditors in the moths of the ADB's Fernances Statements.
- Audiet Massissass and Other Dates.
- Portugiating in the preparation of receive papers. Performing other duties as may be assigned.

Selection Criteria

- suchidity to undertake the responsiblities mendered at the required limit. a Bachelor's Dogree in Business Administration with major in Accounting to Business Administration, and qualification as a Carolinal Public Accountains (CPA) or Corafied Internal Auditor.
- # at least two years expendence in internal mode or risk management of financial institutions or other large argenerations; or simple relevant work at a CFA firm,
- Borough enderstanding of autiong proceptes and techniques as well 44. rearragement reporting systems, working loowledge of computer earlie tools and standard consouter software:
- thorough understanding of principles of internal control systems, its confustated ing of Treasury products and their risks is highly desirable.
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- stuity to meet and interest with excitators organization-wide and work as a mark premises in DAG, an ability to obtain the cooperation and assistance of auditors, convey 2/64 findings usemotionally and without personal crockets, and an ability to draft mass recommendations that will address such concests, take accounted

Established to 1965 and headquartered in Manile, Philippines, ADS's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADS a Headquarters in Manda generally records its (national efficient or advanistrative staff) locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year lavad-serin appointment. ADB olivis a highly compension salary and benefits package applicable to local stall. While the position advertised is for ADS Headquarters at Marris, Phylograps, ADS staff prest be prepared to cores to any location meside the Handquarters at the decreases of Manage

Apply decironically, quoting Rel. No. EXT-ASB4-180(2)-DAGF and job will no subject line and establing application forth evaluation on hop However pair one Employments applorm aspito a-mail address. CS-phs@ladb org by Hill December 2004



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errytronment.

at least 5'8 and College Male at least 5'3 and College Graduale (expenence la en

Sales Demor

al least 5 5 and 3rd year at least 5'3" and 3rd year college terral

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Site Engineers Architectural or Engineering graduate

Preferably with experience in site construction Computer literacy in MS WORD, EXCEL CADD is an advantage. Must know how to drive vehicle & with yaild driver's license. Warehouse Man

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With experience in building and machineries electrical installations Motor rewinding and minor tools repair.

Wood and Laminate Flooring Installers

With experience in solid engineered and laminate flooring installation Can work long hours with minimum supervision

Hot / Cold Press Operator College level or Vocational level

With experience in operation of cold and hot press for plywood manufacturing and also operation of glue spreaders Wood Molder / Bandsaw Operators

At least College Level or Vocational Graduate With experience in wood molder and bandsaw machine operations

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How to get rid of the 'humbug' in Christmas

By Regina Galang Reyes

DECEMBER is the worst month of the year. No, I am not a female Scrooge who thinks that Christmas is

But really, December, and the holidays it brings, is probably the most stressful time for working moms. Our schedules are thrown off bal ance by traffic made heavy with shoppers; our purses are opened to their widest by gifts to purchase, our patience is stretched to its thinnest by our trying to make time for work, family obligations and all the social events we want to attend

In the rush of the Christmas holidays, we wing our way through December, trying to capture the true spirit of Christmas but instead end up unintentionally capturing-humbug, the spirit of pretense and deception.

Years ago, humbug was what I caught every December from eating an enormous amount of fatty foods during the holidays, accumulating huge debts on various credit cards, sleeping wickedly late because of too many socals, and trying to create a picture-perfect Christmas. No wonder, I spent the New Year just trying to recover this can cover anything and her, never uttered an un



from this "sickness."

share our blessings. Many in real ones terpret this as giving gifts or closets to give old clothes, Christmas books and toys to the needy However, while material able non-material blessings things can be blessings, bless- we can share this Christmas rial. According to wise such short supply these Webster, a blessing is a days. I know of one execu-"thing conductve to happi- tive assistant who, in the ness and welfare " Thus, five years I worked with

. One of the most valu-

everything that give happi- kind word about anyone Four years ago, I vowed to ness to other people, whether boss, peer or subor- petencies to a co-employee now I find I have plenty of recover from this yearly whether material or non- dinate I could never get her or subordinate? Teaching quality time for my husmalaise and catch the true material. And if we believe to say anything negative others what you have bend, my children and myspirit of Christmas instead. the saying that "what is es- about anyone. It was con-So what is the true spirit of sential is invisible to the sciously a Christian act for leaving a legacy that can be my time meticulously, tak-Christmas? Well, as we all eye," non-material blessings her not to be unkind. For know, it is being able to may last longer than mate- me, it was a "classy" act es- to the next pecially these days when it Here are some ways you has become a "trend" in the thought that counts" is not what's important to me in money and unclogging our can share your blessings this workplace to be catty about exactly correct. I also do not life ten the butt of gossip circu- counts, not quantity. I be- ings we can share with othlated at work by women lieve that love can only be ers-and enable us to get rid ings are not always mate- is kindness. Kindness is in themselves who see other expressed through action of the "humbug" that's work. Give a gift, sincere time but lots of it. I once at- from Metro Working Mont.)

praise, a smile, a kind word, tended a life-changing ca-

passed from one generation

other people. And the sad believe in the idea that it is part is that women are of- the quality of time that time-these are three blesswomen as their "competi- and one of the most power- plaguing our lives and catch tors." This Christmas (and ful ways -to demonstrate the true spirit of the holihopefully, afterwards), try love is giving time for your days. being nice to a "sister" at loved ones. Not just quality

a helping hand, and an at- reer planning workshop. In ntive ear that workshop, we were.

One of the things we asked to analyze the time place close to our chest is our we devoted to various activistorehouse of knowledge ties and how this allocation and competencies. People aligned with our values in who have risen in their ca- life. I discovered to my horreers have a treasure chest of for that I was spending an competencies or skills that average of five hours a day enable them to succeed in or a substantial 20 percent their careers. Unfortunately, of my time traveling to and many successful people pass from my place of work No on to the next life without matter what I did to make being able to transfer their productive use of this time "technology" to the next (like reading a book), this generation. This is such a block of time away from wastel Knowledge is meant work and family remained, to be shared, not stored. Three years ago, I took dras-Why not teach a technique tic measures -moved my or two from your bag of com- work to my home-and learned in life is one way of self. I have since guarded ing out all the non-essentia. activities from my schedule . The phrase "it is the and devoting my hours to

Kindness, learning and

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What does it take to make it as a consultant

From page 10

when you need to deliver had news, it's just important to do it in a way that makes people still want to listen.

Are you good at spotting you problems and coming up with solutions? I believe there is a consultant gene, something in them that

got to bring something to the thing unique to offer makes them inveterate prob- table that the company Can you work indepen-

lem-solvers. Are you the doesn't already have. So it's dently? Consulting is a huge even in tough times? kind of person that other important to carve out your people naturally turn to for niche very carefully. Training advice? If you don't mind be- programs, degrees and sucing put on the hot seat, this cessful consulting projects will just might be the career for all help you to develop your niche. Also be aware of the re-Do you have technical ex- sources that exist for the compertise and a unique base of panies that you are targeting knowledge? A consultant has and be sure you have some-

departure from having a boss, clear responsibilities need to be a gamble. Follow 18 8 percent and a steady paycheck. It's these tips and you just might tough to do the hustle full take to it like a fish to water time (and we're not talking your services and can you rate grind? find ways to support yourself

Being a consultant doesn't

Here are the results from a disco here). Are you a self- recent workingwounded co out, 43 5 percent starter, do you cope well m/ABCnews.com online balwith uncertainty, are you lot: How do you feel about prepared to sell yourself and breaking free of the corpo-

Engineering grounders with extensive experience or the principality of explanated and created which Should be begin indignated in the interpretation of infla-

min of Granty resigned as a Departual bysis median

Encourse expenses, se an en-chair in all discrept differs impaire with in that. I years expensive to Duffer And British him have shall be of district in these not provide configure Depositional shall be a fairful and insure shall exceptive raths would not increment in rate wall produce

Technical course profusion with institucts of two visit pagements gloss inflicient lapscicity of the (processes minute) contage volucity with Forces or Mace confidence in placetage Perfected sign hospita 23 to 13 years mil

excellence with the phone and facal commons

-I'm just a corporate guy

or gal, 7 percent -I've already escaped,

-I'd like to but I'm scared, 30.5 percent —I dream about getting

(Mr Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)



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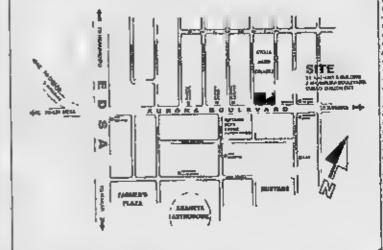
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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Can 'power dressing' improve your image in job interviews?

By Ernie O. Cecllia, FPM

I CAN'T AFFORD to buy fancy slacks and blazers for my job interviews. I feel inferior to other job applicants who dress smartly. Perhaps, this adds to my low level of selfconfidence and made me fail many job interviews.

My friends and former classmates tell me that I should learn and invest in "power dressing." Do you think it will help my chances of getting a job? Just what is "power dressing?" Can you give me some advice to improve my image and get a good career?

Plain Clothes Girl

Having a good career does not just require dressing smartly. There has to be more to a great career than just power dressing. As the opinionated Simon Cowell of "American Idol" fame would say, "People will do the strangest things Just to hide the fact they are comand pletely utterly talentless."

I agree with Simon com pletely that one has to have talent. However, he also admits that "when a woman walks in to audition, I might my message across, I will think, 'God, she's ugly.' " Before one opens his or her mouth to talk, people are already judging him or her in the first five seconds by the way he or she looks and mak ing an opinion or impression in the pext 20 or 30 seconds

Survival of the prettiest

There are thousands of talented people who cannot even get a foot in the door of great corporations because not, you are sending a strong they don't know how to. Every day in this world, people are fighting not just a war for survival of the fittest-it's others what you think of and the business community also a war for "survival of the yourself, and you signal to

Perhaps, it is unfair, but most people are highly visual-they judge you by the way you look on the outside. When you go to a job inter view, your appearance-not duty-is the first to get noticed In fact, many job applicants never get to the interview stage because their resumés have unremarkable rude, but most human resource managers are good trainers, not plastic surgeons Therefore, they hire traingrooming and personality job applicants, the better-

groomed gets an edge.



the importance of creating a you are looking for a job, not successful image, whether you are looking for a job or wanting a promotion. To get choose to be rude this time-perhaps, just like Simon Cowell of "American "StarStruck "

In the corporate world, the people who get hired, get promoted, and get paid more are usually those who pay great attention to the way they dress and groom themselves. Whether you like it or personal statement with the I tried to keenly observe how sure, even in difficult situaway you dress

others how they are to evaluate you and treat you. Since tion dressed-unremarkable! you dress yourself, you are The greater mass of humanresponsible for whatever message you send "

Appropriate dressing

But what is power dressyour talent or dedication to ing? It does not mean wearing expensive clothes or a means dressing appropri ately so that you best project the image of success in tire--not party dress or long gown or tuxedo, especially if you are applying for an entry suggests six to eight pieces of I want to emphasize here applicants. Remember that Of course, it was not all piz-

showing off your expensive collection.

When you get that job, maintain your power dress- sions through power dressing. Don't dress shabbily after you get hired, lest your officemates think that you Idol" or Douglas Nierras of only borrowed or rented your "job interview costume."

How should you dress when you now have a job? I will share a personal experience here. I used to work in a bank before I joined San Miguel. Once I got hired in San Miguel by Met Ganuelas, the more successful people tions. Brian Tracy said, "You tell and leaders in San Migdel dressed. Of course, I also saw how the others in my posiity in that 30,000 strong corporation wore uniforms. I opted not to wear the uni-

Dressing 'up'

My personal rule was to dozen pieces of jewelry. It dress for two positions above my current job I was send ing a personal message with the way I dressed. With perphotos. I don't mean to be whatever you do. In job in- sistence and consistency in terviews, wear business at- the way I dressed, I was looking like a person in a higher position. Perhaps, when I started to look like able people with basic good level position. Some people somebody in a higher level, tend to overdress in job in- the people I met, especially Between equally qualified terviews, too. Cora Doloroso those who could decide about my career, must have jewelry only for women job begun to think highly of me

zazz-it was hard work and producing valuable results, too. I got regularized in three months and promoted in one year

My boss began to trust me with some of his own responsibilities. Once, we were asked to present to the Division Managers (mostly Spanierds or mestizos, but all masters of the Hispanic language) the new appraisal system we designed for San Miguel. I dressed like one of them. One of the elderly division heads kidded me before the presentation, "You have the lowliest position in the company but you are able to gather these busy people two days in a row and listen to your presentation This must be something important."

Lasting impressions

Power dressing makes you look more important, competent, credible and ca-Even after San Miguel, I realized that my bosses always took pride in tagging me along and introducing me to key customers or other executives in the

Here are a few more tips on creating lasting impres-

Look like a winner always-everybody loves a

 Act as if you are a very important person

Strive to appear like a person with a future

 Try to show others that you are going up the ladder

 Influence others with your external appearance

Never lose your compo-

 Groom yourself to be a person destined to succeed

Quote for the week cal appearance? Let us just say that physical appearance or power dressing helps you create a good impact and a good first impression Imagine coming to the interview in untidy attire, worn out rubber shoes, and yellow teeth. Do you think the interviewer will be impressed?" (Cecilia, "How to

Get a Job", 2000) (Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. E-mail feedback to ecqu@edsamail.com.ph.)



PEOPLE at WORK columnists (standing from left to right) Teresa Reyes Tunay, Bishop Precioso Cantillas, Tita Datu Puangco, (seated from left to right) Josie Santamaria, Ernie Cecilia with editor Regina Galang Reyes.

WOULD you like to join a network that can help you in your career growth and development? To address your career concerns and needs, People at Work is setting up a forum where people at work and jobseekers can support each other in the quest for a better career and life. People at Work columnists, writers and editortal staff will also be part of this forum to lend you a helping hand. Working professionals, jobseekers, human resource executives and practitioners, managers, trainers, consultants and all others willing to share and help are welcome to join. To join, e-mail your name, gender, civil status, age, contact number, company name and position title (if applicable) to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph or fax to tel. no. (632) 938 2092 or text to 02-937-0376

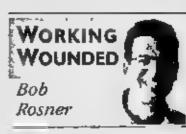
What does it take to make it as a consultant?

DEAR WW: I survived this round of layoffs, but I can still feel the guillotine blade hanging over my head. I'd like to try consulting and get more control over my life. But I've always been a corporate gal, so what do I need to know?

Eyes On The Prize

Dotty was so despondent that everyone who knew her thought she might try to kill herself. This was no idle concern; Dotty is a highly toxic boxfish and the staff at the Bournemouth Oceanarium knew she could pull it off Then, one staff person "How important is physi- thought her depression might be that she was lonely, so he suggested putting a pair of plastic dice in her tank. It worked, and now Dotty and her dice are inseparable.

For people who are inside corporations, jumping ship to become a consultant often looks like one big roll of the dice. But those who've suc-



cessfully made the transition don't focus on the risk Like Dotty, they fall in love with the dice. Start by asking yourself the following questions For more, turn to "How to Make it Big as a Consult maility ant" by (Amacom, 2001)

Do you have a good bedside manner? A consultant is usually easier to fire, so people have far more choice when it comes to working, or not working, with a consultant So it's even more important to be someone that people will choose to work with. This is not to say that you . should turn into a Pollyanna There are times

What's inside

A day in the life of a nine-to-fiver

How to get rid of the 'humbug' in Christmas p. 8

'Nasibak'

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WORKPLACE lingo can sometimes be so graphic. Take, for example, "nasibak," which means someone got sacked or fired. To say a worker just got "laid off" would imply that he lost his job without creating a splash, but to say "nasibak" would evoke images of heads rolling-the worker in all probability lost his job in a most traumatic way: his head

was chopped off-he got the axe, so to speak. Normally, a worker gets the axe when he is unproductive, when he does not "produce good fruit" as today's Gospel so graphically describes. In the workplace, the minimum of "good fruit" one can produce is the output expected from him. Most workers can meet this minimum expectation, and as long as they can keep their record clean, it's good enough performance as far as employers are concerned. Going a step further, some workers do more than what their job descriptions require—and do it well besides, thus they produce "better fruit" for the company. But whether we produce "good (mit" or "better fruit," we cannot deny the fact that we all make mistakes every now and then. Occasionally we get sluggish (overate and drank like a fish at last night's party), or suffer mood swings (sometimes brought on by domestic or relational problems outside of the workplace), which adversely affect our conduct on the job. We're just being human, we say. Fine, but-see the turning point here? See how we can use our mistakes to advantage? The turn hinges on repentance. When we feel sorry for our wrongdoings and resolve to do better, hence, we restart on the road to productivity, to producing good-and better-fruit. We can now throw the exe into the fire. (E-mail the author at teresa de manila@yshoo.com)





Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Produce good fruit as endence of your repentance ... Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Work and repentance

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

AS AN EMPLOYER, I have met employees who would contritely ask pardon for the offenses they have committed at work. These repentant workers would promise better behavior and work performance if given another chance. I would normally ask them, however, to show concrete signs of true repentance before I would grant their request. And I have observed that the truly repentant worker would work harder and show better performance and dedication in his work than he used to.

This experience reminds me of Jesus asking for the same attitude and feeling of true repentance from everyone, in cluding those in the workplace-both employers and em ployees, offenders and non-offenders at work-for after all, we all sin against God one way or another either in the work place or in other areas of our life. Jesus warns us to "produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance" or else we "will be cut down and thrown into the fire." What then could we show to God as "fruit and evidence" of our true repentance?

Our work performance could be one way we show true repentance. We express our sincere repentance when we change our negative outlook, from "work is an unavoidable burden I have to bear" to our "I wholeheartedly accept work as God's will for me." We also show true sorrow for not trust ing God enough, relying too much on our human capabils tles, and forgetting that talents are gifts from God, by sincerely thanking the Lord for them, by using them unselfishly in our work, not only for our own satisfaction but also for the benefit of others, and offering our work for the praise and glory of the Pather. (E-mail the author at mfvg@skymet.net)

A day in the life of a nine-to-fiver

By Ron C. Contributor

YOU know how cats are when they're having sex. Like humans, they're notsy. But quite unlike humans, they're violent,y noisy (1 mean, where's the tender love and affection?), It took two cats at the violent throes of passion to joit me out of sleep.

Of course, I say my morning prayer. Then, I rummage through the kitchen capboard downstairs. I make myself a you are currently trapped. On cup of coffee. I know my daily Pridays, all roads lead to dose of caffeine carries with it a heavy price, but I refuse to roads lead to the malls, and at trade a piping hot sip in the night, to the city's watering morning for anything, It's one of the few things that make everyday life worth living, and I should be willing to trade it off with getting stuck in traffic dus. So, we're left with Tuesand being late for work

I grab a cup of desiccated our sanity noodle for the office in lieu of a real breakfast. You see, my apartment is so stricken by poverty that the resident rats complain and eventually die of on EDSA or a major transport hunger (How come there are strike. so many cats around here?)

my brother Rommel beats me period of time, ie., long into it. He uses water as if he has an entire ocean for a bathroom "Go easy on the water," I holler, stratospheric bills in sexually appealing to her, she's mind. Geez, I'm running late

On the road

Life's many other little paradoxes assert themselves the minute I slam the door shut on my way to work, I ride an PX taxl. The streets are clogged as usual with jeepneys, buses and cars of every make, but many other commuters have nothing else to take them to work! By the look of the commuters' faces, it seems like they've been waiting for at least one danged year. One pines for the Holy Week when

the roads are totally deserted, anyone can stage a bailroom dancing class without having to stop, look and listen.

Inevitably, the question shoves itself in my face. Why exactly is traffic almost always bad? Let's see, On Mondays, all roads lead to Metro Mantia where people come back from their weekend getaways in the provinces. On Wednesdays, all roads supposedly lead to Baciaran and it is the tail end of the bunch-up wherever Quiapo On Saturdays, all holes. On Sundays, all roads lead to churches and yet to the malls; entire families hie off to nearby resorts in an exodays and Thursdays to keep

But when the traffic actually eases up, you're sure the city screeches to an abnormal standstill. It could be a rally

The girl in front of me states I prepare to take a bath but at me for a long, undignified enough to get caught. I take it to mean three things: (1) I look familiar to her, (2) I look waiting for me to give her my cail card. (3) She badly wants to tell me my fly is open. In general, I mind invasion of privacy. Not this one, I would actually get mad if anybody showed zero interest, because it can only mean, three things as well: (1) The girl likes guys but not those prettier than her, (2) She likes girls more than she likes guys, (3) My fly is open. So I check it out. It's securely closed.

I arrive in the office in one Praying really works won- quite know how to react, as I vestigation and cleanup ac- life-or non-life-redefines they're having sex .



ders. I swipe my identification card at the timer Yes, I am late by a minute, which trig-(Annie's Song playing in the background)

I remember the day I found my present job (snivel, snivel). I wanted to hug and ktss anyone i could see within my field of vision and throw a party 1 couldn't say a word but pleasantry "Yesl" in between pumping the air with my fist.

Today (tears now rolling), reporting for work can mean responding like I am a retard dragging my heavy duty shoes forward as though I had elephantiasis, as though I'm being dragged to the electric

I make myself feel guilty by thinking about the swelling number of the unemployed, the underemployed, and the foreign-employed.

Pleasantries

With a thunderclap of a voice, my officemate Alma announces for all to hear in the office that I look so "officious" today with my chosen attire, like a cloak of authority. Alma

grope for the most appropriate word of retaliation Then, with finality, I fulminate at gers me into pensive mode, her. "You're...you're contumacious!" This is how I annoy people who annoy me-I turn encyclopedic. Alma speeds off towards the latest edition of Webster's dictionary, flipping over the pages like crazy This is our version of a morning

The phone rings and I answer with a sincere hello. The voice returns my kindness by

Actual work

I haven't stopped singing hosannas the day after I walked into an office room of thunderous clapping, reeling from the success of a recent job aliegedly well done It's one of the things that have kept me going.

But that was so long ago. The point is, I wouldn't mind a repeat of it. My typical work consists of word transpositions, deletions, insertions and grammatical corrections to legal documents Thus, a long ritle such as "Practical guidehas this bad habit of putting lines in hiring an environmen-

tivities for leaking underground storage tanks" is sloughed off to "Practical guidelines in hiring consultant for investigation and clean up of leaking underground storage tanks " I fume, I snort, 1 explode at every error or my pulse quickens at every exhibition of expertise

I would describe my current job as exacting, monotonous, tedious, and taxing It has squeezed me out, tied me down, burnt me out and got my goat, bringing out the worst in me. My Job has improved my vocabulary

Lunch break

"What are we going to ingest?" I ask my lunchmates equally dismayed by the lousy canteen food. We decide to eat out. I reach out for my wallet and find that it's gone "That girl in the FX taxif She wanted to tell me something!"

I manage with the tragedy We take a table shaped in a curious polygon We have what they call a "power lunch " We call ourselves the Knights of the Trapezoidal Table. The day's agenda deives on, among many other topics, Chinoys with funny names. Washington Dy-Sy, Andy Lim, Edgar Allan Pe, and Bennett Ong. We return te work with laugh marks on our faces and gas pains in our stomach. I forget about my lost wallet

Upon our return, we are told that we have to work overtime.

Back home

I'm back home through sheer miracle. Being burned out makes me think: The only way to make extra money and get a life is to work overtime But working overtime steals away all my time and energy,

the meaning of Catch 22.

When night falls, I toss and flip my body in the bed ofmetaphysical unease, waiting: for time to stand still and my' memory to fade, that I may lose counting sheep jumping over a stile. I switch on the TV only to turn it off. I read a book instead, only to dog-ear a page. In lotus position, I rum :-nate on life's joys and pains, love, death and dreams.

At the end of the day, it's between me and my God. I talk to Him, confront Him. I've been working for almost . 10 years now and I'm still' renting an apartment, stil... commuting using public transport, still dependent on a finite income What happened? Should I blame You or should I blame me? It seems that I've been lulled by my steady income into the pits of complacency. It seems that 1wasn't ambitious enough or daring enough, I should have tried working abroad or starting up my own little enter-' prise. Tell me God, is ambition bad, or am I just being told to move on?

At REM stage, I enter a world as grotesque as that of Hieronymus Bosch's and Salvador Dali's. Not unlike my waking hours. I dream about all sorts of things. I dream of blueeyed foxes, strange birds and butterflies. I dream I'm a prisoner of war during the Japa nese occupation. I dream of having Nelson Mandela's ear. for lunch.

I have no intention of interpreting these stupid dreams All I know is, even my dreams are consistently crazy.

Suddenly, my dream of a bird of prey plucking at my' private parts is cut short by the sound of two cats at the violent throes of passion. You piece through sheer miracle. her friends on the spot. I don't cal consultant to perform in- so I end up having no life. My know how cats are when-

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- existing IT systems Contribute to the development and maintenance of the office information
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December 5, 2004 Rachy Cuna The versatile designer and stylist was born with a talent for decorating and an eye for finding treasures. Happily, he assures that creating Christmas cheer at home doesn't have to cost By Harriet Ann Dy Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento much, especially if you LL that glitters seems to turn to gold recycle and go Filipino this year for designer/stylist/artist/floral architect Rachy Cuna. At the Ramon Magsaysay Awards presentation ceremonies last August, for example, he crafted golden floral cone-shaped vases and filled them with orchids and tropical blooms. For Shopwise Alabang's ongoing "Global Pasko" campaign, matte gold sun ornaments and gold maya birds add a distinct Filipino sheen to a neutral-colored Christmas tree embellished with barnboo stars and naturally-colored capiz shells. Closer to his grandmother Celestina Zamora's home, a newly-restored 1930s residence in the heart of Ermita, Rachy declares that "copper is the color of the season because it matches the gold accents in this house." This year's Christmas tree is brightened up with orange tassles, copper and gold ball ornaments, mini-capiz stars and etched glass to complement the gold-dipped Davalla ferns in the dining room and the capiz-and-gold upside down pineapple lanterns on

The American in MacAla by Bambi L. W. A. Chick L. Amer A. Enriquez

There Must Be A Dog Heaven by Alya B. Honasan, p.

Rachy...from page !

Orientalia haven: Rachy on one of several visits to Beijing, China

His Midas touch notwithstanding, Rachy has always been known for his trademark blend of the Asian and the whimsical, the Filipino and the modern. "He's really very good especially in Orientalia," says cakemaker Penk Ching of Pastry Bin, a friend and colleague of more than a decade.

Maybe it's in the genes; he counts Ignacio Boncan, a Chinese merchant, among his ancestors. Or childhood summers spent in Tokyo with the entire Zamora clan on his mother's side. Better yet, maybe it's a combination of both. Rachy's distinct style, whether in floral arrangements, interiors, paintings or even jewelry and handbags, has consistently mirrored the sensibility of the East.

Stylized flavor

"Who else will help the Philippines if not us?" he says of his tireless efforts to add a local, if stylized, flavor to his many creative projects.

It is a passion that he has cultivated since his teen years. Born to businessman Bert Cuna and Pacita Zamora Cuna, Rachy only has one other sibling, brother Ricky, who has made his name as the entrepreneur behind the Italian ice cream Fiorgelato. He



and Ricky are close, Rachy says, but poles apart in taste and temperament.

As a Grade 7 student, Rachy would religiously save his P25 weekly allowance and troop to Ermita to buy santos from antique dealers. While everyone else collected GI Joes, I would buy broken pottery and santos with no heads or arms because they were cheap," he recalls.

He scored one of his early finds, a set of Soong dynasty jarlets sold to him by another antique shopper for P10, during one of these weekly expeditions.

His eye and collection gradually developed through the years. From chipped china, he moved to paintings by Sanso and Joya, jade and even orchids while working on his degree in Business Economics at San Beda

In the '70s, he embarked on what was to become a 12-year career with the Ayala Museum. From museum volunteer and receptionist, he worked his way up to curator--no mean feat for someone with no formal art background

At the Ayala, he not only developed a discerning eye for fine things, he also honed new skills beyond the creative.

"Because I helped in organizing events at the old Aviary, I learned many things, from menu preparation to floral arrangements to relating with all kinds of people," he says. "Best of all, I developed the discipline of a working person."

It is a habit that he retains to this day. "He is very devoted to his craft," says Penk. "His work is his life and his creativity really shows through his work."

Design consultant

A short stint as a design consultant for a floral company bridged the professional gap between Ayala and the birth of Rachy at the Met rerail store. The '90s had rolled around, and he had found another home at the Metropolitan Ma- luxury to do things that I enjoy." seum of Manila

Amidst its hallowed halls, he turned local once again and used the humble palay (unhusked rice) as his store's logo. Palay, he says, symbolizes prosperity and blessings. And for six years, his store weathered retail seasons despite says. slow museum traffic

One good thing about his Met stint was that it gave him the opportunity to explore his introspective side through his one-man show, titled "Journeast," a 75-piece abstract painting exhibition.

When the millennium arrived, however, his creative juices went on overdrive. In 2001, he came up with a jewelry collection in capiz and silver. For the Centennial, he researched and me" recreated the Aguinaldo shrine in ed silk flowers and drenched them in sampaguita scent to make them last the week-long celebration. That Christmas, he worked with Unilever to create the biggest belon in Luneta. This time, he put the parol in the spotlight.

He also launched the Rachy Cuna Cup, an annual award given to young and upcoming floral designers that same year as a way "to give back to soctety."

In 2002, he came up with an exclusive bag collection that once again melded the East and West-a clutch

with Chinese prosperity coins, and cylindrical-shaped bags with names like "Wealth" and "Oriental Bl'ss."

A year later, he went back to jewelry design, this time working pieces out of semi-precious stones.

in between, he continues to indulge in his fascination for the Oriental through active involvement in the Association for Philippine-China Understanding (APCU) where he is vice-chairman

Like a sunburst at high noon, Rachy continues to radiate with countless ideas and to find outlets for his varied interests. To critics who have panned his "jack-of-all-trades-master-of-none" efforts, he says, "I'm just happy to have the

Commissioned projects and seminars aside, Rachy-whose favorite expresssion is "dearest"—is just that to friends and staff. A close female friend tells us of his staff's fierce loyalty. "He even takes them with him on his trips abroad," she

Makeover

For her part, Penk recalls the time Rachy gave her a makeover. "About a year ago I had a function to attend, and he sent his driver and brought me to his stylist at Emphasis salon for a long promised makeover," she recalls, "Not content with the new look, he even got me a Criselda Lontok outfit and jewelry to use and wouldn't take a cent from

These days, Rachy is working on an-Cavite from a hundred years back, craft- other makeover. This time, however, he has been put to task as a visual consultant for a large department store. Although he is mum on the details, he is hoping to unveil the store's new look by next year. He is also busy working on pieces for a sculpture show also in

> Meantime, at the stately Zamora home, curtains find a second life as a tablecloth, and round micrors on the dining table reflect the antique glass chairdelier in the dining room. At home and beyond, the creativity doesn't stop. Q

> > ર્સ્ક



Editor in Chief Managing Editor Associate Editor Stoff Write Graphic Designer Design Consultant Editorial Autistant Advertising & Sales Manager

Alya B. Honasan ebs Cruz Ruel S. De Vera Eric S. Caruncho Chuchia Quavedo-Ses Lynott A. Villariba Sharon M. Felipe Kenny Nuyda

right, with brother Ricky

THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at China Rocus Ave. (formerly Pasong Turno) convex Yague and Mancardo Sta., Makad Chy, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Making address: PO Box 2050, .099 Month, Philippines, 6-mail: sim@inquireccom.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr sim@inquirer.com.ph.



two gallery exhibit, "Dreams on Paper," until Dec. 12 at the Finale Art Gallery and Galleria Duemitá in SM Megamail. Cavestony's new works comprise a delightful selection of the artist's watercolor still. Mes, mixed media experimentations, and utilitarian furniture innovations with a twist of line are. In photo is "Light Box" Gland to the Phone," For more of This Winsk, see page 7

'UNFORTUNATE, **IRRESPONSIBLE**

I congratuiate Maria Taniguchi for having been featured in your prestigious magazine ("The Art of Disappointment," SIM, 21 Novembar 2004). However, it is very unfortunate that your article is based on inaccurate statements and rehashed issues long resolved.

Please allow me to quote some of Ms. Taniguchi's statements and set the record straight.

I. " It was welrd, because I was a student, he was my teacher, and it was work I did while I was under

Fact is, I was not her teacher when she made the cast figures that | declared as "found objects" for the work "The Meaning of Peace." In an earlier Interview ("Much ado about The Meaning of Peace" by Eric Catipon, Phil. Star, 04 Oct. 1999), I quote Ms. Taniguchi, "I was not at all pressured ... For one thing, hindl ko na siya teacher for about two years so he didn't have any hold on me..."

Profs. Feleo and Aquilizan were

her teachers then,

2. "...his subsequent body of work is all from that piece,... and he never did that kind of work before the AAP thing."

My subsequent, body of works ("Homoaestheticus Series" at Galteria Duernila 2000, 2002) can be said to be the result of simultaneous explorations in various media.

Fact is, in 1986, I introduced full body plaster casting from life at PHSA. My "Isko" sculpture in collaboration with Visual arts students (batch '87) was funded through a grant from UP PCCA (through Dr. Jonathan Malicsi).

In 1994, I introduced the use of fiberglass as a medium for mask-making and casting body parts at PHSA. In 1996, the senior students and I employed fiberglass in producing masks for the Fox Foundation and Juliliard School (New York) Grant c/o Ana Valdez-Lim.

Fact is, I used liberglass for the 9.5 ft high woman sculpture/boatmen sculpture commissioned by the Zu Bar & Restaurant (Makati Shangri-la) in 1995; "Altar," AAP First Prize In Sculpture; "Metamorphosis" exhibited at the Kyoto International Community Center (1994); "Bonifacio," entry to the 2nd Bonifacio Public Art Competition, etc.

Fact is, the impetus to pro-

duce free-standing figurative sculptures for the Homosestheticus series came about in 1998. I shared this excitement in producing full figure places with Maria T. by showing her a picture of Antony Gormley's work "Learning to Think" before she formally created her cast figures.

My sculptures are also inspired by the works of my students (which definitely includes Maria T., Batch '99, but equally by many who did cast from life fiberglass/sawdust figures such as Danu Arellano, batch '98 "Take your Time," Kawayan de Guia, batch '96, Mark Cosico, barch '95, etc.)

Again, it is unfortunate and irresponsible to claim ownership of an art technique and exclusivky/monopoly in the use of the human figure as a subject matter in sculpture. The qualities of the materials and the choice of subject matter may result in similar looking forms but serious pracditioners always refer to the artist's intent to gauge the validity of any creative undertaking.

GERRY LEONARDO leonarts@laguna.net

Rachy's Decorating Do's

Be brave with color. Rachy has combined green and orange, white on white and fuchsia and magenta to dramatic results. For this holiday season, he has combined orange tassels, copper Christmas balls, minicapiz stars and etched glass.

Scout around for raw materials and spray-paint them with color. Some suggestions: Parol frames and sipe balls get a touch of glitz when spray-painted in gold.

When it comes to tree ornaments, Rachy says "less is always more."

a Make sure your Christmas lights are wrapped generously around the tree branches for a luminous and twinkling effect.

Put your Christmas tree in a focal point of your house. "A good spot sets a strong holiday tone throughout the room," he says. Rachy suggests the center of the salz or beside the sofa or console table. When it comes to tree height, he prefers them "close to the calling."

Big vases with skinny twigs and branches plucked from the garden and spray-painted in a monochromatic color are a good substitute for Christmas trees. "Christmas doesn't always have to be about poinsettias," he says.

Spruce up your table by clustering single-color Christmas balls in a glass container, or group your candelabra and dress them up in bows.

Buy Filipino. You can wrap gifts with recycled tropo, handmade paper, raffia or sinemay ribbons, and use postcards of old Filipino prints as gift tags.

Splashing Around with SpongeBob SquarePantswith SMART Kid Prepaid!

So strange, so unique. so ..uh...spongy. Deep down in the Pacific Ocean in the subterranean city of Bikini Bottom lives a square yerow sea sponge named SpongeBob SquarePants SpongeBob lives in a pineapple with his pet snail, Gary, loves his job as a try cook at the Krusty Krab, and has a knack for getting into all kinds of trouble without really trying.

And that's who SpongeBob basically is. One of Nickelodeon's most well-loved characters, SMART Kid Prepaid recently teamed up with Nickelodeon yet again for an exciting meet 'n greet Splash Partyl SMART Kid Prepaid, the first celfone for kids, kept the fun factor at overdrive last Sunday, November 28, at the Rockwell Tent as hundreds and hundreds of kids squared up with other kids and their perents to meet their favorite TV idoi in the fle., wellsponge. Prior to the Rockwell Tent event, SpongeBob SquarePants also visited SM Megamail and SM City North Edsa, both of which were equally successful "meet 'n greet" dates for young ones and their idol.

It was a non-stop party affair that

started at 10am and lasted till 5:30pm. Klds and their parents, friends, femilies and yayas lined-up for a photo op with Mr. SquarePants on stage, for which he willingly obliged. Then when everyone had had their picture taken with the big yellow spongy fellow, SpongeBob SquarePants even broke into a nifty little song and dance number that had the tots and tykes screaming

and cheering with delight! And that was just the beginning. For those who liked their brains to be teased, Gant Puzzle Boards awaited them and it was a blast for all to try and solve them. Bubble Machines spewed out crystal clear bubbles that filled the tent, giving the illusion that everyone in it was underwater in SpongeBob's world! And other super activities included Balloon Twisting, Face Painting and Glitter Tattoos.

Being a SMART Kid Prepaid event, SpongeBob wasn't the only familiar character on stage. Lo' and behold, a grand stage appearance by SMART Kid mascots Sam, Marty and kimi draw wild cheers from the kids in the "underwater" tent as they picture messages, just text KIDS PIC

too engaged in a cool dance number, flanked by other SMART Kid back-up dancers dressed in equally yellow garb. At 4pm, the fun continued with kiddle shows and raffles. And every idd went home with a SMART Kid goode bag to keep the memories of a fun-tastic Sunday alivel

SMART KId and SMART KID Prepaid subscribers automatically got in for freel For SMART subscribers (Addict Mobile, SMART) Buddy, SMART Infinity, SMART Gold or Talk N' Text) just download any 2 SpongeBob SquarePants content, like a logo for example. And if you're a non-SMART subscriber, just ourchase a SMART Kid SIM or awap your non-SMART SIM-and you can do all this at any of the future SMART Kid and SMART Kid Prepaid

For a list of cool stuff and downloads on SpongeBob SquarePants, simply text BOB to 357. If you want cool SpongeBob logos on your celfone, just text KIDS LOGO <KEYWORD> (Ex. KIDS LOGO SBOB2) and send to 357. For

<KEYWORD> (Ex. KIDS PIC SBOBHI) to 357 Or try downloading SMS Calendar Logos by texting KIDS CAL SBOB to 357

So be a smart kild and sign up for SMART Kid or SMART Kid Prepaid today so you too can be part of all these wild and wecky parties that even the parents enjoy! It's happening again on Saturday, December 4 in SM Cagayan De Oro and Sunday, December 5 in SM liolio. Get a SMART Kid SIM, put your game face on, get smart and



Snapshots of SpongeBob SquarePants in the Rockwell Tent









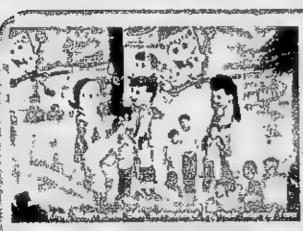


















Snapshots of SpongeBob SquarePants in SM City North Edsa



SM City North Size gets mort with the SpongeBob SquareParts mall blits





American in and a

U.S. President George W. Bush's point man in the Philippines, Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, shares his insights on what we can expect in the next four years of the Bush administration, and what he does when he's not worrying about terrorism and world peace

IM: You have just returned from Mindanao, How do you assess the political, economic and social situation over there?

Ricciardone (R): Quite a dramatic change for the better since my first visits in 2002. When I first visited Basilan, I saw classroom huts not far outside Maluso destroyed by the Abu Sayyaf terrorists, at which teachers had been murdered

But on my most recent visit last month with USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios, I visited the national high school at Isabela, where USAID is working in partnership with the school, its parent-teacher group, and the Ayala Foundation in the CLIC ("Computer Literacy and Internet Connection") Program, CLIC had set up numerous computers for the students and teachers and trained them to use the Internet as a teaching resource. Just think: kids and teachers in Isabela right now may be reading these words on their desktop computers in Basdan. Two years ago, they would never have seen your work or even know that it exists.

In Maluso and Isabela, the communities, with US-AID assistance under our small and medium scale infrastructure program, are nearing completion on RO-RO (roll-on roll-of) terminals, to further link up Basilan to the national economy. Seaweed farming is booming. Our driver in Isabela proudly pointed out the first Jollibee to open in Basılan-in which he had invested using his own increased earnings!

I was also pleased but not very surprised that Christian women leaders of one NGO in Basilan waxed eloquent about the new security and stability on their island. What did surprise me was their compassion for the wives and children left behind by the Abu Sayyaf males, who had either fled, gone to prison, or been killed. These Christians were dismayed over reports that a powerful local Muslim politician was compelling Abu Sayyaf families to sell off their lands to him below its value. Now that's a dramatic turn-around

SIM: What can the citizens of Manila do together with the people of Mindanao to generate more respect for each other's culture and point of view?

R: Support education! Do everything imaginable to support public and widely-accessible private education before it is too late. Raise revenues. Prosecute those responsible for the unconscionable corruption that deprives teachers and kids of quality textbooks. Volunteer. Raise funds and donate to charitable foundations that have a proven record for improving access to qualiry education beyond the fine education available to the privileged elite. Of course as a former teacher and a parent, I am biased in favor of the power of education. It may be "soft power," but it is the most effective power for citizens to take charge of their lives and their communities and their country.

Our Mission here has been especially proud to support an initiative by House Speaker de Venecia to bring young university graduates from Mindanao to work with members of the House as interns.

And why not establish internships in businesses and local government in Mandanao for young people from Luzon and the Visayas? The American Peace Corps Volunteers (not all of them young) who are experiencing precisely such internship-like programs all return to the US feeling that they have learned far more than they purport to teach in their local Filipino communities. DFA USEC Edsel Custodio tells me he is promoting such an internal Peace Corps model for the Philippines; other Filipinos, too, have told me they are thinking such thoughts.

SIM: In what ways can the U.S. help with the peace process in Mindanao?

R: I see three principal ways: economic development assistance, political support, and security assistance:

I believe our USAID development assistance programs are making a real difference in Mindanao. I commend to you for example the 30-minute TV docamentary, "Arms to Farms," reporting how we have worked with local communities to help 25,000 former MNLF combatants develop good livelihood through the farming of seaweed, fish, corn, and rice. Other programs we support also seem to be helping spread peaceful conditions-though they also require a modicum of peace to get underway. Microfinance projects. Well-family clinics run by competent, caring nursewidwives who are also keen businesswomen and educators in family planning options. Environmental management projects. CLIC and other education pro-

As the White House announced in May 2003, we also stand ready to contribute to the political dynamics



of the peace process, to the extent all parties welcome us to do so, through the expertise of the United States Institute of Peace. USIP has worldwide experience in conflict resolution, and its experts can share the lessons learned the hard way from other conflicts. Later this month, for example, the USIP is sponsoring the visit of a distinguished soldier-statesman, retired General Anthony Zinni, who has incomparable expertise in international peacekeeping and monitoring operations. The USIP can offer other assistance as well, like support in comparative research on such thorny issues as ancestral domain. But we don't seek to intrude in any mediation role, or otherwise interfere in a political process that seems to be getring more seriously underway.

Finally, security assistance is no less important a contribution. In the past three years, we have stepped up support both to the AFP and the PNP and other law enforcement authorities including the Coast Guard and the Justice department to strengthen the rule of law against terrorists and other criminal elements from Luzon to Mindanao. SIM: The MILF themselves want the US involved in the peace process but the Malaysians don't. Is there a way the US can resolve the impasse?

R: I honestly don't see any impasse, as both the US Government and the Independent USIP will respectfully become involved in the peace process only in the ways and to the extent that the parties to the conflict may welcome us to do so. Likewise, we fully respect Malaysia's very constructive role over many years in working for peace between the MILF and the national government, and we certainly do not seek USAID Education Advisor Dr. Thomas

to intrude on or supplant their successful and promising work in any way.

SIM: Some Generals claim there are two Jemaah Islamiyah (terrorist) camps in Mindanao but the President and top defense officials do not seem to be overly concerned. Now that the MILF has agreed to have the area inspected, would you know what the status of these camps is?

R: I really do not have a good sense of the numbers of Jemaah Islamiya people in the Philippines, or where they are locared, I suspect there is much overlap in the identity of JI people with others, like the Abu Sayyaf, and perhaps elements of the MILE who ignorantly and even blasphemously pervert one of the world's great divine faiths as they claim religious justification for murdering people and taking hostages.

SIM: The Council of Foreign Relations in a special study states that madaris (Islamic) schools in Mindanao do not prepare their students for gainful employment because they teach mainly religious subjects. Students cannot therefore compete for mainstream jobs or qualify for university. Is the U.S. helping prepare a more secular curriculum as a companion to the religious one?

R: I think local people and national educational establishments,, not foreigners like us, should decide the content of what their children should be taught. If they want our research or other assistance, we'd be glad to consider any requests. I have heard from some teachers in our teacher training seminars of their great interest in developing their own reaching materials.

(Writer's note: Indeed, according to

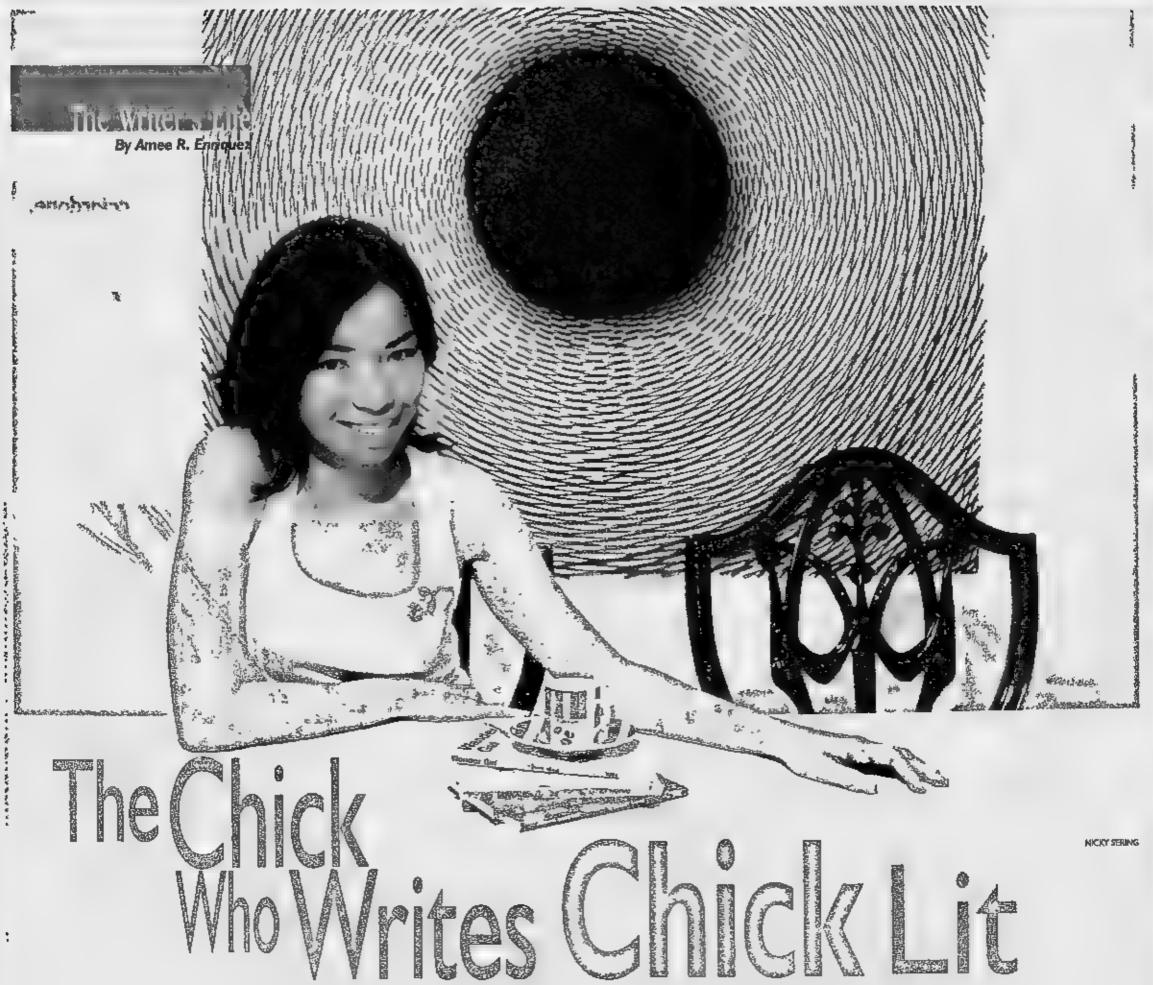
Kral, less than half of about 700 madaris in the country offer education in subjects other than religious instruction and Arabic language. But efforts to change the situation are being made as DepEd national and DepEd ARMM attempt to produce public school materials that recognize Muslim values while expanding their curricula in Math, Science and English.) SIM: Most Filipinos are concerned about corruption. One reads about the money laundering act and the U.S.'s concern over terrorist money. Has the Philippine government specifically asked for help with respect to persons who may be guilty of money laundering or amassing hidden wealth?

R: We have been working closely with the Philippine government at its request, to strengthen legal protections against money laundering since at least 2001, when it passed an important Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA), As that Act alone was insufficient to meet international standards, we have been supporting the government quite intensively to produce and implement amendments to the 2001 AMLA passed, as I recall, in March 2003, In addition, we do share intelligence on specific international money laundering activi-

SIM: In line with the pensionado system that existed before the war and which aimed to develop professionals for Philippine government, would not reviving these scholarships for middle level technocrats for certain bureaus like Customs result in reducing cor-

R: I'm not familiar with that system, but

To page 7



The hectic, multifaceted life of writer Tara FT Sering exemplifies the kind of crazy-quilt backstory that fuels her hip, energetic passion for creativity

ARA FT Sering (the "F" in her name stands someday I'd become a lawyer or a doc- mostly male. Her strongest literary in- recommends really fabulous movies, for February, the month when she was born), the local best-selling writer and editor of "chick lit," has a confession to make. "I'm single right now and I'm not really dating," she says.

This revelation might come as a surprise to fairs of her books, since its main themes are mostly about falling in love and finding "the one." In "Getting Better," the herome Karen breaks up with her asshole boyfriend and ends up with her good friend Bert. In "Almost Married," Karen tries to figure out if she's ready to take the plunge.

But unlike her female heroine who is bold, outgoing and very much sexually aware, 29-year-old Tara is almost the complete opposite. She is shy, unassuming and self-conscious. She emphasizes that the characters in her books are not necessarily autobiographical. "Some of the characters are based on one person but a lot of them are a mix of friends, my sisters, my relatives, and a bit of myself. It's fiction, fiction, fiction!" she says with a

Even if Tara says that the characters of the books are an imaginary concoction, the two books "Getting Better" and "Almost Married," along with the other book titles published by Summit Books where Tara is editor, are bestsellers. More than 10,000 copies per title have been sold, no mean feat for books published locally. "The popularity of these books rests on their accessibility. I think 'chick lit' is successful because it has long been neglected," Tara says.

The books are successful because the U.K. originated concept of "chick lit" has been adapted to the Filipina palate. Tara's first book, "Getting Better," was initially given as a complimentary copy along with an issue of Cosmopolitan Magazine Philippines in 2002 to test the waters. The unprecedented move was a risk that paid off.

Living her dream

There is no doubt that Tara loves what she does. It is obvious in the way she talks about her job. "I feel that I'm not wasting my time, especially now that feedback is instantaneous. I feel like I'm in the right industry. I'm doing something right because it's appreciated by a lot of people. The audience is my age group, and it's a big thing for me because I know this age group more than anyone," she says.

Tara discovered her love for writing stories when she was 15 At that time, her mother brought home a typewriter and she happily click-clacked on the keys while dreaming up stories. "I've always wanted to become a writer. I never promised my parents when I was five that

ably be an interior designer or a packaging designer," she says. "If studying for something wasn't a consideration, I'd probably be a scientist. Also I'd like to be a traveler, but I don't know if I can make money that way or if that's even a job if there's no writing or photography involved," she says.

After finishing her degree in literature at De La Salle University in Taft, Tara started off in public relations, before becoming a researcher at the University of the Philippines, and then press officer for Lynonnaise des Eaux.

In 2000, she became managing editor of Cosmopolitan Philippines and consequently the associate editor in 2002. Her move to Summit Books, a division of Summit Media, in 2003 as editor in charge of developing and producing book titles has been equally successful.

Aside from her two bestsellers, Tara's other published work is quite impressive. She wrote "All the Right Moves," a novel for young adults published by Adarna House, which has a chooseyour-own-adventure concept.

Tara has also published short stories and essays. These have appeared in the University of the Philippines' "Likhaan: Best of Poetry & Fiction" for four consecutive years, from 1997 to 2001, and in "Creative Nonfiction: A Reader's Guide." Her work has also been anthologized in "Babaylan: Fiction and Poetry by Filipino and Filipino-American Wrlters" published by Aunt Lute Books in San Francisco, California. Her collection of short stories, "Reconnaissance," published by the UP Press, has also received good reviews.

She is a vereran of prestigious writing workshops, like the National Writers' Workshop in Dumaguere and the UP Writers' Workshop. Her novel, 'Almost Married," won the Philippine National Book Award in 2003.

Interestingly enough, though Tara is well known for her books about modern women, her literary influences are

Gregorio Brilliantes, with whom her writing style has been compared. Aside from him, she also looks up to John Updike, John Cheever, E Scott Fitzerald, Gemino Abad and E.M. Forster, Among the women writers, she mentions Toni Morrison, Elizabeth McCracken, Anne Tyler and Bharati Mukherjee as influ-

Tara sees writing as a discipline and not something that is dependent on mood, although she confesses that writing for her comes in spurts. "I'd go on for days revising an opening paragraph over and over, and then dropping the whole thing for a couple more days, before I get into a writing fit. I won't stop until the carpal tunnel thing becomes a real risk and my eye bags are pouches. I can usually go for two days straight and then I crash. I still can't seem to accept that I'm not young no and that these thesis-night writing runs are more physically challenging," she says.

Varied interests

Tara and her three other siblings are all artistically inclined, despite the fact that her mom runs a business and her dad is a lawyer. Her older sister is also a writer, her younger brother a photographer, and her younger sister a painter. It is a running joke among the siblings that her mom is their patron in their artistic pursuits.

Tara's interests are not limited to writing, however. Apart from writing she cites travel, cooking and mixing cockrails as passions. "I like cooking but I can't seem to follow a recipe if my life depended on it. I'm not a consistently happy eater so I'm not always hunting for great food like many of my friends, but the whole process of preparing food gives me a therapeutic high."

Tara also likes watching movies. T like most kinds except for the doomsday and city-wreck types. It's too stressful for me." She has also recently discovered Asian movies, "My friend Paolo Manalo is my Asian movie coach and

tor. But if I wasn't writing, I would prob- fluence, she says, was former teacher from Wong Kar Wai films to Steven Chow flicks, to Pinoy movies. I'm proud to say that I discovered my fave Pinoy movie on my own, 'May Minamahal' by Joey Reyes."

Tara says that she has the habit of "forever picking up brochures or flyers or business cards for dance classes and craft lessons," but never really signing up for them. She also enjoys hanging out in coffee shops even without a book, as doing this can bring on serious philosophical and political discussions.

Personal relationships

It is mevitable that Tara be asked about her take on personal relationships. After all, this is the main theme of the books that made her popular as a writer and readers consider her an authority of some sort. "I used to have very cut-and-dried opinions on what relationships should and shouldn't be, but I find now that I'm about to turn 30 that I know very little. Things that happen in my personal life and in the lives of people I know, like siblings and friends, always constantly destroy my preconceived notions."

At the moment, she is single. "I'm not very good at meeting people on pre-arranged dates by friends. I feel more comfortable slowly realizing that I enjoy the company of this person maybe two hours into a conversation but once I do, I'm very madaldal,

"I have a personal motto I try to live by, which is to regret nothing, although I do of course regret some. But my goal is to reach a point where my choices won't make me regret anything. That's coupled with being true to myself at whatever I do, although that's not always the case either. But I find a lot of satisfaction in trying to be the things I want to be."

And with all the good things that have been happening to her lately, Tara has more than enough reason to be satisfied.





By Alya B. Honasan

There Must Be A DOQ Heaven

There will be so much pain when a beloved pet's short life ends, but it's a risk you take for the privilege of being touched by these gentlest and most faithful of God's creatures

AVE you ever had to bury a dog you loved very much? It must be one of the most heartbreaking ordeals possible, seeing a pet who once sprang to life at the mere sound of your voice, now a lifeless weight being lowered into the earth, never to jump into your arms again.

On September 15, 2002, in a special animal issue of SIM, I wrote about my Belgian Malmois, Muffin, and how she had been my salvation with a wet nose, a pet who, by simply being herself, helped me on the road to recovery from clinical depression. If she hadn't already arrived, a year-and-ahalf old, with that name, I would have called her Prozac. And in our four wonderful years together, she brought more happiness into my life than every feel-good drug in this world possibly could.

Last November 30, after a vigil at her ver's and her daylong battle with a sudden infection that sent her into spasms and fatally raised her body temperature, Muffin died at 4 in the morning, 25 days before her south birthday on Christmas Day. We buried her under a santol tree in our garden in my prized silk malong from Marawi, and she wore her favorite red collar and heart-shaped tag. I also sent with her a rosary, a face towel of my mom's, a scarf my kuya gave her, her favorite ball, her toothbrush, the mitt brush she loved to have smoothed over her fur, a picture of me with her and my teddy bear Dick, and three of her favorite rawhide stick snacks, all wrapped in a tubdo I used to tie around her neck. My kuya, who gave Muffin to me four-and-a-half years ago as a gift, was there to help shovel the earth over her body. He was my tower of strength when I almost couldn't let my baby go. He is engraving a small stone with Muffin's epitaph-"Life was short but sweet."

I am profoundly heartbroken and devastated by her death. She was the little star of my life, my unconditional lover and cuddly best friend, with whom I could communicate without words, and who returned every bit of the fierce love I gave her tenfold. I still cannot fathom the idea of coming home and not seeing her brown eyes light up to welcome me, or not having her wet nose poke my hand as my alarm rings to signal our daily morning walk. I stumble through the part of the house I shared with her and my mother, and am bombarded with signs of her contented life-her food bowl in the corner, her after-bath moisturizing oil, the lemon yellow raincoat I bought her in Canada to wear during drizzly walks (and which always stopped school children in their tracks, as they squealed with glee at the sight). I see her leash, her dog food, her bed, her nail clipper. I cannot shift my gaze from one part of my home to



Muffin, Dec. 25, 1998-Nov. 30, 2004

another without having my heart torn into even smaller pieces than I had ever thought possible.

Yer, as my mother and I sit, bonded by grief, I make my argument for someday, somehow, having another dog in this house. Muffin is irreplaceable, that is the truth; there will never be another dog like her in this world, and in our lives. But hopefully, another dog will one day bring her own unique brand of delight into our days. As our already tired hearts go through the wringer again, we agree that the agony is a small price to pay for the experience of loving and being loved by a dog. There will be so much pain when a beloved pet's short life ends, but it's a risk you take for the privilege of being touched by these gentlest and most faithful of God's creatures.

I remember Muffin through my tears, and I cannot stop giving thanks that she was in my life. After she died, I texted friends who knew her, asking for prayers and reminding them of three valuable lessons Muffin taught me. First, she lived

completely in the moment. The sight of her waiting for a treat or warming up for our wrestling sessions was priceless--all focus, enthusiasm and openness. Even in my yoga practice, where being in the moment is key, I cannot hold a candle to my dog's gift for being totally immersed in the here

Second, she loved, and never hesitated to show it. One vigorous wag of Muffin's tail, and I knew she was glad to see me, and that I was the most important thing in her life, Yes, no matter how bad my day was or how nasty I was getting.

Finally, she taught me the simplest but most life-changing lessons on forgiveness. I would snap at her on bad days, ig nore her, even push her away, and she remained undaunted. She would come back, offering the same acceptance and understanding in a wriggling 54-fb package of sheer empathy. How bad a person, I'd think, could I possibly be if I am perfection in this wonderful animal's eyes?

I drew immense comfort from the words of friends who knew how I had moved heaven and earth to make my dog happy. "You gave her a wonderful life here," a friend told me. "She must be bragging about it now in dog heaven to other dogs who weren't so lucky." Only four years together, I said, but among the best years of my-and Muffin's-life. She was an angel who came, fixed me up, and left when she felt her job was done and I had reached my 40th year with minımal damage

She even died with the utmost consideration. After I spent a whole night stroking her and wiping up her mess, she looked at me softly, and her breath became slow and peaceful, like she was asleep. I nodded off to sleep myself for a couple of minutes, only to wake up with a start and find her gone. It was a quiet exit that happened when I wasn't looking, and my dearest friends say it was probably because she didn't want me bawling over her dying breath

Oh, how I will mourn her. But I promised Muffin I would never let grief defeat me as it did in the past. I will be happy again, and I will not let the gift of joy she put back in my life ever go to waste

That's why I know there is a dog heaven. If you're one of those people who believe animals just wither away and turn to dust, forever lost, please think again. Where could all that goodness and beauty have come from?

I once read that whenever God is disappointed in man, He calls home a dog to remind him that love still truly does exist. Well, God must be a believer again if he's jammin' with my baby in that pet playground in the sky.

Muffin's gift could only have come from a wonderful place. And wherever that place may be, I know that's where my dog has finally gone home. Q

Godspeed, baby. Moremy will never forget.



An Early Christmas Invitation

The validity of Christmas should not be judged only during the holiday season. For it is only when the little baby in us grows up, bids goodbye to Bethlehem, and walks bravely to Jerusalem that we can truly say that Christmas still has a meaning for us today

ASKONG Misa is our way of inviting you to join us In gathering our friends again. Come to Paskong Misa on December 19, Sunday, at 5 in the afternoon here at the Center for Migrant Youth on Cordillera Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City.

After the Mass, linger awhile for Paskong Salusalo, and Paskong Haranahan (Christmas caroling), led by our lovable Ate Pining Santiago and her DZRM (Radyo Magasin) Haranistas.

Sometime before Christmas Day, CMY will give gifts to needy bahies and children (ages 0-10). Get your own children to share their "baby goodles" with the poor: Infant formula, baby food, baby clothes, baby soap, baby powder, useable children's clothing and footwear, toys, biscuits, and candies, and other "baby things." Send them to us before December 19.

If you want to give to CMY, just share your table with US.

Gifts from your table

in your next market trip, please remember our Center for Migrant Youth, include us in your shopping list. Perhaps

one or two cans of food (sardines, corned beef), coffee, milk, sugar, cooking off, rice, condiments, noodles, bath and laundry soap-anything you can afford to share with 22 migrant and street youths

You need not give all the goods mentioned above, just a piece or two (like the five bartey loaves and two fish given by the little boy in Jn. 6:9) which when entrusted in the hands of Jesus could feed a maititude.

My fond request.

No personal gifts for me please, not even flowers, on December 19, my birth-

Sincerely in the Name of Jesus, of Jesus only and of Jesus always, Fr Ben

Is Christmas Relevant?

relevant because Christianity is Irrelevant. So they want to abolish Christmas along with Christianity because they say both are passé. This argument is not new at all. It is as old as Christianity itself because the "abolition of Christ" was precisely the high point in Christ's, and in every Christian's essential crisis.

The "Intelevance" of Jesus of Nazareth was the sign of contradiction about which Simeon spoke (Luke 2:34), and with which Christianity is marked until the end of time. The Christian message will always be assaulted and challenged for being irrelevant. The true Christian will always be crucified for being irrelevant.

As long as there are challenges and crucifixions like these, it can only mean that the Christian message as lived by authentic Christians can still prick consciences

Some people say that Christmas is ir- and disturb the comfortable, hence, cannot be taken for granted. It is only when the Christian message begins to become "relevant," "fashionable" and conformist" that we should start worrying about its

The validity of Christmas should not be judged only during the Christmas season when everybody feels nice and sweet about everybody else, but after Christmas when life swings back to the business of loving, forgiving, trusting and serving those you don't feel nice and sweet about, and when there are no photographers and reporters to cover your "Christian charity," For it is only when the little baby in us grows up, bids goodbye to Bethlehem, and walks bravely to Jerusalem that we can truly say that Christmas, indeed, still has a meaning for us today.

Antipolo

IPABDIWANG

TAYO NA SA

ANTIPOLO

NATIN ANG KAPISTAHAN

50th ANNIVERSARY

NG ANTIPOLO BILANG NATIONAL

SHRINE OF OUR

LADY OF PEACE

AND GOOD VOYAGE

Trip7, an exhibit featuring works by a group of local and New York-based Filipino artists working in different mediums such as curamics, photography, wood, varnishes and painting, until Dec. 20 ox The Drawing Room, Metrostar Build-Ing. 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City. For detalls, call 897-7877

Romulo Olazo presents recent paintings of his life-long "Diaphanous" series at Finale Art Gallery, 4/F LLO Centre, Passy Road, Malati City utefil Dec. 14

Parabola, a two-man exhibit by Popo San Pascual and Reb Belieza at Magnet Gallery ABS tocated at the Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Quezon City until II Dec. 30.

Bogung Penahon, a group exhibit featuring the works in different mediums in 6' x 3' artworks by Noel el Farol, irma Lecorte, Arniel Roldan, Ruel Cassi, Rene Cuves, Mideo Cruz, Mac Valdizno, Rachel de Loy-

ola, iggy Rodriguez, Eleizer Cabangon, Jeho Bitancor, Alex liastra and Eric Guanzon, from Dec. 10 to Jan. 4 at Kulay Diwa Art Galleries, 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque. For detalls, call 826-0574.

Weaving Lives: The Art of Saori, an exhibit that focuses on a unique Japanese weaving technique that is used as therapy by mentally challenged individuals, until jan. 15 at Museo Pambara. along Reses Boulevard, Manila. For details, call 523-1797 to 98.

After the Fact, an exhibit by visual artist Juan Alcazaren featuring idiosyncratic materials, until January 2005 at The Edge Gallery, UP Vargas Mu-

Ang Baybayin at ang Monliffikha, an axhibit about our ancient writing system, the Baybayin. and its present-day interpretations of artists in the form of calligraphy, beads, sculpture, among others, ongoing at Bahay Nakpil-Bautista in Quiapo. Free tessons on writing the baybayin are

Grace and Gestures, recent drawings by Angelo V. Magno from Dec. 13 to Jan. 3 at the Art. Elements Gallery, The Artwalk, SM Megamali. For details, call 634-0203.

Music

Classical singer Joscephine Gomez calebrates her 50th year of survival from cancer with a concert of German Lieder (arx songs) and Filipino sorgs which make use of nature imagery. The concert, A Tribute to Nature, will be held on Dec. 11 as 7:45 p.m. at Vieux Chalet Swiss Restaurant in Antipoto City. With planist Carlos Perion, the soprano will interpret popular Lieder set to music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Felbt Mendelssohn and Franz Schubart. Guests include soprano Thea Perez and tenor Jimboy Calisang. For hookings, call 697-0396 and 687-7898.

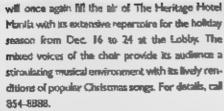
Nyoy Volante and Mannos will treat their fans, family and friends to a free Christmas concert. dubbed Niyoy to the World this Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Polo Field of the Alabang Country Club. There will be a free shuttle service from the Alabang Town Center to the Alabang Country Club acclusively for concert-goers. Get into the spirit of the season as Nyoy and Mannos perform a selection of well-loved Christmas songs, as well as their own hits. The show will also leature the Mandaluyong Children's Choir and pienst Martin Avila.

Noel Sings for VOICE, a fund raising concert to support Votce Network's volunteer exchange programs in the Philippines, featuring Noel Cabangon, with guests Hannah of Session Road and the De La Salle Innersoul, Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at SM Megamali Cinema 4. Tickets at P200. P350 and P500. For inquiries, call 928-8969 / 09189375075

Paco Park Presents One Great Christmas Show on Dec. 10 with the Temple Hill International School students showcasing their musical talents in a merry program to remember. On Dec. 17, the talented students of pianist Richelle. Rivera formally ends the 2004 Christmas season at Paco Park in San Marcelino, Mamia. Shows start at 6 p.m. Free admission.

Paps Fernandez pays unbure to Beyonce Knowles, Jennifer Lopez, Briting Spears, Janet Jackson and Madonna in her upcoming concert. It Girl, on Dec. 11 at the Ultra. The concert will also serve as a sneak peak to Pops' upcoming album under Warner Records. Tickets available ac Ticketworld outlets (tal, 891-5699).

Heavenly votous of the Hentage Family Choir



The San Miguel Marter Chorale graces the pop concert stage as guest performer in the yearender solo concert of Martin Nievera, "All You Need is Love (A Brass Kirding Christmas Concert)," on Dec. 10 at the PICC Plenary Hall featuring the hig-band sound of a 20-piece briss ensembig under the musical direction of Louis Ocampo, Guest performer la Fil-American Carolle Velasco of "American klof" fame. The SMMC will also be singing at The San Miguel Christmas Music Festival, a saries of Yoletide-

themed concerts at The Podium (Dec. Shangri-La Plaza (Dec. 16) and SM Malcati (Dec. 17). Some of these performances will be staged together with The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra. (The SMPO will be having a solo concern at Greenbalt 3 on Dec. 103 On Dec. 15, the SMMC will perform at the O.L. Jimali Hall in UP Los Baños, Laguria. For

Romuto Ofazo's "Diaphanous," on view at Finale Art Gallery

Cinema

details, visit www.smipa.com.

NCCA-CVRP Film Club presents in Focus: A. Salute to Contemporary Filipino Directors featuring the Birns of Jeffrey Jerurian at Targhelang Legydro V Locsin, NCCA Building, 633 Gen. Luna. Sc., Intramuros, Manila. Films to be shown are "Alo Bolds" on Dec. 10 as 2 p.m. and "Sono Pog-ling No" on Dec. 17, 2 p.m. Resource persons will be Armando Lao on Dec. 10 who will talk about Writing a Screenplay that is Uniquely Filipino while Jeturian. will discuss The Present State of Filipino Films on Dec. 17 Admission is free. For inquiries, call Rosswif or Surny as \$27-2207 or \$27-2192 local 308.

pelikula@titusbrandsma presents eye-poppung visual films on Oor, 11 namely "Russian Ark" by Alexander Sokurov and "Naked States" by Arsene Donnelly, Titus Brandsma Censer is located at 24 Acada St. Cubao, Quezon City. For details, contact Francis at 839-735 i

Onstage

Dramacs Personae stages Heartik lissen's mystery-romance drama Lady From the Sea with a gala performance on Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. at the Carlos P. Romute Theater, RCBC Plaza, Gil Puyat Avence, Makati City. The play is about a young worman earn between the convenience brought about by the love and commitment of her aging husband yerses the passion brought about by the irresistible desire of a mysterious senfarer out in the sea. For inquiries, call 722-4205.

Food

Igallanni's offers Fresh Baked Holiday Timats as gift idea this Yufetide season such as Cinnamon Roll, Hungarian Roll and Ensaymeds. For those who went a taste of hem and sausage, there's the Spit Ham Roll and the Sausage Roll. For the sweet-toothed, there's the Tex Rung Bread and Mango Strudel, Italianni's also has Christmas Bas-

kets of Foccacia and Tuscan Bread with a bottle of Balsamic Vinegar and Herbed Olive Oil Dip or you can include a bostle from Italianni's wine selection. Italianni s has branches Greenbek 2 and Gioriecca 4 in Makad, Connecticut Greenhills, Alabang Town Center, 5M City Bloutan and in Eastwood City, Libis

T.G.I. Friday's is celebrating its 10th year this month with a samptubus selection of Rock 'N Roll Classic items. Start off with Loaded Cheese Fries teamed up with the new jack Daniel's Burger. There's also the Country. Chycken Fried Chicken served with hearty country gravy. For a halanced taste of land and sea, there's the Surf & Turf featuring a thick, Julyy char-grilled New York strip steak along with savory Jack Daniel's shrimp. Friday's also offers Coke for Cream Float and Cherry or Vanilla Colte. The Cherry Coca-Cola Cake is the ultimate dessert to cap your diring experience. Finday's has branches in Glonetta 3, Robinson's Manifa, Hotel Rembranck-Quezon City, Sta. Lucta East and Alabang Yown Center.



teurs and others planning to start or manage a catering business are invited by MB&G/ProAc-Catering Business Sembar-Worleshop on Dec, 13-21 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Ipanerea Bar & Restaurant, Eastwood Cay, Libis, QC, Reserva-

The Heritage Family Choir sings popular Christmas carols Heritage Hotel



For this week's bands and schedules call: Hard Rock Cafe (893-4662-65}

- · Yirgin Calé QC (926-79821
- '70s Bissor 46 Anunes St., QC (922-0492)
- e Mobbie House (80) Malaini Sc., Malaine, Manilla
- (\$21-7604) Strumer's: El Pueblo, Orrigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two

weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

A scene

Dramatis

Personae's

"Lady from

the Sea"

from

tions are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis at tel. 687-1787 or 0915-4315375.

Discovery Suites supports World Wikilife Fund Philippines' efforts to mentain the balance of ecologically significant areas like the Tanon Strait in the Visayas, Simply purchase an adorable long-shouted spinner stuffed toy at the front desk for only P130 and proceeds of which will be donated for the Tanon Strait conserva-

tion efforts. For WWF Conset vanon Grde cardholders, a 10 percent discount on Discovery Suites local residents' package is given. For details, call 920-7923 or 436-7311.

The University of the Philippines College of Arts and Letters marks its 21st year with a full week of celebratory activities. There will be a First General Homecoming of \$1 1984, 1989 and 1994 alumni on Dec. II, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the 2 Agrium of the New CAL Building to Diliman, Quezon City, Special gueses are the 1979 (Silver) and 1964 (Ruby) graduants of the

College of Arts and Sciences as well as the 1959 (Gold) graduates of the College of Liberal Arts. CAL CAS and CLA alumni are requested to get in much with Eve Mariano, Taris Peralts or Cory Villagracia of the CAL Dean's Office at 928-7508 or email Prof. Ramons S. Flores at ramons.flores@up.edu.ph.

American photographers Eddle Tapp and Tony L. Corbell will be two of the top foreign and local photographers who will give fectures during the Photoworld Manife 2005, the biggest photography event in Southeast Asia to be held from

Fab. 4 to 7 at the Asian Institute of Management Tapp will discuss digital imaging while Corbell will talk on portraiture. For reservations, call 643-5341 and 8 3-7420.

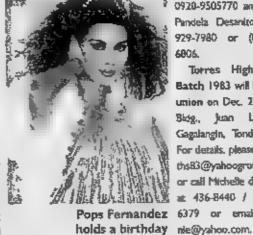
SHRINE ,

ALTAR

The University of the Philippines Integrated School Batch 1985 will hold its Grand Alumni Homecoming on April 16, 2005 dubbed "20 on 2005" For more information, please email upis 985@yahop.com. You can also contact

Morique Isidro-Adalem at 0920-9505770 and Marilyn Pandela Desanito at (02) 929-7980 or (02) 453-6806.

Torres High School Batch 1983 will hold a reunion on Dec. 19 at Alkla Blog, Juan Luma St., Gagalangin, Tondo. Manila. For details, please log on to ths83@yahoogroups.com or zail Michelle de Guzman **436-8440 / 0927-551-**Pops Fernandez 6379 or email pochin-



concert at the Ultra

X-manila

The CHS '55 Alternal Association invites all 1955 graduates of Cavite High School to toin its golden homecoming and grand reunion on Jan. 4 and 8 in Cavite City. The festivities will start in Caridad Elementary School at 7 a.m. on jan. 4 with a day-long fun-filled activity at Portice de-Gracia Resort, Kawit, Cavite. For details, call Lourdes Vinzon et (046) 4310518; Rogello Co (046) 4312336: Pacifico Anglo (046) 43 10625 and Lito Beltran (02) 813-7420 / 843-5341.

An American

we do assist various government agencies especially via the Anti Money Laundering Council and the Ombudsman, for example, by training technocrats at all levels. Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo can brief you on the results of our training support for his greatly expanded team of investigators. On the AFP side, the training and expertise in organizational reforms which we will provide through the Philippines Defense Reform project should go far both to deter corruption and to expose and punish those guilty of it

SIM: Moving to less serious matters. You barely have time for yourself with all these problems at hand.

R: Right! But I love my work-these are not all problems; every problem is an opportunity!

SIM: When you do have some spare time, what do you prefer to do? Do you scuba dive or play golf or go fish-

I hate golf, probably because I am so bad at it. I like fishing but have not had the time for it. I like scuba, sailing (though again I have little time), tennis, swimming, trekking, bicycling, and I read a lot. When in the US, I like gardening. I like cross-country skiing, too, but I've never served in a foreign country where there is much opportunity for that.

SIM: What is your greatest fear?

R: I can't say that I have directly experienced true fear, except momentarily in life-threatening situations. But I have experienced it vicariously, that is through others. I'm thinking of Iraqi friends of mine who were victims of unspeakable, unimaginable torture under Saddam Hussein, for example. Of course I have worries

and anxieties. My main one is that we will not follow our parents' example and pass on a world to our children that is safer, freer, and more prosperous than the one that our parents passed on to us. Hence such problems degradation, environmental widespread poverty, and other corollaries of global overpopulation do

SIM: Who are your favorite writers? R: I hardly ever read fiction or poetry any more. Lots of non-fiction though, especially journalists who also write books like James Fallows, Robert Kaplan, Tom Friedman, David Ignatius, and William Langewiesche. There is a French scholar on Islam who I like, Giles Kappel, so I'll probably pick up his new book. Two books I've enjoyed in the past year are Lester Thurow's "Fortune Favors the Bold," and the late Warren Zimmerman's 'First Great Triumph," about America's emergence as a global power under Teddy Roosevelt. Both carry striking insights that are germane for the Philippines.

SIM: What is your greatest extrava-

R:Two daughters)

SIM: What is your most marked characteristic?

R: Hmmm, Depends on the context, I like to think I'm friendly and open as a personality, and with a fair sense of humon What I like to think is one thing, and what others think probably is another What do you think?.

SIM: If there is one thing you could change about yourself, what would it

R: I've always wished I could play a musical instrument really well. Or at





After all, it's not giving him what he wants, it's about giving him what he needs.



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Ukraine rivals in new standoff



Business / B I December inflation seen

topping 8%

Tanong mg Bayan /A22 Salot ng illegal logging, bakit hindi masugpo?

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Foreign governments and agencies yester-

Forest rangers rarer than Philippine eagles



By Carlito Pablo

JOIN NG the Philippins eagle and the tamarew in the endangered species list is the forest ranger.

"There are so few of them and in some areas,

email: leadback@inquirencom.ph



Monday, December 6, 2004 ** * 84 pages / 8 sections / Vol. 19 1/2 No. 362

INTERNATIONAL/A22

website: www.inq7.net

9 big loggers identified

GMA dared to cancel permits of companies

SENSING "all talk but no action^k from President Macapagal-Arroyo, environmentalists in Aurora and Quezon challenged her to immediately cancel the permits of at least nine big logging companies in the two provinces where hundreds of people died from massive floods and landslides blamed on the rampant cutting of trees.

The Militi-Sectoral Action Group (MSAG) identified the companies as Pacific Timber Ex port Corp., Verdant Agro-Forest Development Corp., Inter-Pacific Forest Resources Corp., Indus tries Development Corp., RCC Timber Co., San Roque Sawmit Corp., Benson Realty Develop ment Corp., Toplite Lumber Corp. and Green Circle Properties and Resources Inc.

The firms either have timber license agreements, integrated for est management agreements (II mas) or special private land tim ber licenses with the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, the MSAG said in a statement e-mailed to the INQUIR-ER from Baler, Aurora

The operations of Green Circle, whose license covers 30,000 hectares, extend-up to General Nakar in Quezon, southeast of Aurora, MSAG secretary Joey Estriber said

The MSAG issued the challenge after Ms Arroyo talked tough against logging. She ordered on Saturday the suspension of all logging activity in the



HELPING HANDS: Rescuers carry 51-year-old Julia Stebusa to a helicopter of the 205th Presidential Airlift Wing in typhoon-struck Infanta, Quezon. Floodwaters have receded

85 bodies buried in one grave; Real survivors flee

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Tonette Orejas PDI Central Luzon Desk

IN GRIEF-BOUND Real town in Quezon, rescuers battling threats of epidemics couldn't do much more than bury all 85 bodies in

one grave yesterday. In a private cemetery in Infanta, 69 bodies was not about the dead from the were shoved into apartment-type

identify some of the dead. They were laid alongside those that had been identified and buried together in one swoop.

In the port of Real, the story wanting to leave town. storms but about the survivors-hundreds of them fight-There was simply no time to ing for space on an interisland

ferry that could carry only 100. Armed Coast Guard men tried to restore order but were overwheimed by the crush of people

'He wanted to embrace everybody'

Here was the true-to-life version of

that popular painting of a shepherd

bending deep by the side of a cliff to

reach out to a sheep in distress, But

Father Cha often also fancied himself

getting ahead of the story. His bishop,

Rolando Tria-Tirona, sometimes

the lives of others.

"it's chaos. People are refusing to get off (the boat.) But we can't force them to get out because they also want to leave the place," said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Alberto Taule.

Other residents were fleeting by renting small private boots despite

Father Cha lost his in order to save called him "Colonel."

their vulnerability to rough waters. But the supply of fuel for the boats was also running out as most of the diesel and gasoline in town had been reserved for vehicles being used in the rescue effort

in Aurora, to the north, where some 3,000 people were packet

Father Cha, 48, died last week, at

the height of the fury of Tropical De-

pression "Winnie," which traited two typhoons and was followed by

another that battered eastern Lu-

zon. More than 500 lives and thou-

sands of houses were lost to land-

slides, flooding and rampaging tor-

rents that descended from denuded

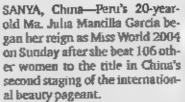


Good Samaritans put up a soup kitchen to feed street children and give them early Christmas gifts at the Signal Village's covered court in Taguig, Metro Manila, yesterday.

Peru bet Miss World; RP's Karla in Top 5

gan, so did it end-with turbulence _a soldier, alert and ready at all times.

and suffering around him, with his Why, he even owned a gun. But that is



By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

A BOILING storm attended Fr. Charli-

to Colendres' ordination 18 years ago

on Dec. 2, 1986, in Dingalan, Aurora.

As his road to the priesthood

stretched and as his priestly life be-

hand reaching out to the poor crying

for help and clinging on for dear life.

The newly crowned Miss World earned \$100,000 in prize money after edging out 20-yearold Miss Philippines Ma. Karla Bautista, 18-year-old Miss Dominican Republic Claudia Julissa 19-year-old Cruz-Rodriguez, Miss Poland Katarzyna Borowicz and 24-year-old Miss America Nancy Randali, who was a heavy favorite with London-based bookmakers.

"I was surprised, yes, very surprised but I am very happy, too," Mantilla Garcia told reporters.



MISS Philippines Ma. Karia Bautista MISS World 2004 Ma. Julia Mantilla Garcia

SC acts as economic catalyst

By Amando Doronda

THE SUPREME Court decision opening up the nificance. country's mineral wealth to development by foreign mining companies trans-

forms it into a catalyst of economic development, away from its high profile intervention as an arbiter in political stalemates.

cant economy-related decisions of the court in at least the last two decades. Its impact ex-

tends beyond the economy. To call it a "landmark" decision trivializes its far-reaching sig-

More than liberalizing the interpretation of the nationalistic economic provisions of the Constitution, the decision redefined the outlook of the court. It took the court out of its

accustomed role as ballast for political stabili-It can be claimed as one of the most signifi- ty in response to the series of political crises that began with the collapse of the Estrada

Veather Forecast

COMPRESS OF MAY LEVES A PRESERVE ANCHOR 12/06/04

ORECAST Fastern Luzen, Visayas and Mindareo will experience nostly cloudy sides with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent war exstern sections of Visayas and Mindarea, The rest of the count-

ng easiers sececies of transported and indicated rainsbowers ng wife be partly cloudy to cloudy with indicated rainsbowers source magaza

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TELCOS CONVINCE GMA

Palace opts for hiked VAT over franchise tax

ly Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. nd Carlito Pablo

MALACANANG is no longer bent on pushing for the impoition of a franchise tax on telecommunication companies but would instead seek an increase in the value-added tax VAT) on telecom services.

agal-Arroyo softened her stand n the proposed franchise tax folowing a meeting with telecom adustry bigwigs over the weeknd in Malacañang.

The President would instead taintain the VAT system on teleom providers but wants the rate between 12 and 14 percent.

The source said the President merged from the meeting with he top telecommunication exectives with an "open mind" after he was briefed on the implicaons of switching from the VAT to franchise tax.

Telecom companies earlier rarned that they would pass on ne proposed franchise tax to their astomers in the form of higher parges for phone and text services nce this would be part of their op-

A source said President Maca- erating cost. Unlike the VAT, the franchise tax is not tax deductible.

The top executives of the telecom companies explained that they would start paying the full 10 percent VAT by next year (after their tax perks, which allowed them to keep part of the VAT collections, lapse by yearend). This would genaised from the current 10 percent erate at least P10 billion in additional revenues for the government.

The executives said that raising the VAT rate on phone services was more practical and would lead to more revenues than shifting to a franchise tax which would yield only P10 billion. The higher VAT rate would raise an additional P4 billion to P6 billion on top of the P10 billion.

The Palace had called the meeting to get the views of the telecom executives on the proposed franchise tax. The President earlier did the same

with top officials of tobacco companies who agreed on a compromise formula on higher excise taxes on ogarettes and alcohol products to avert lengthy debates in Congress.

Malacañang said the President's hands-on strategy was necessary in view of the urgency of passing new tax measures to avert a credit downgrade.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye did not return the Inquirer's calls, while spokespersons of the top two telecom firms, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.-Smart Communication and Globe Telecoms, said they could not get in touch with their top executives.

The VAT increase in lieu of the franchise tax was proposed by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, one of the

economic advisers of the President. Salceda had branded the franchise tax "a very bad idea" that could doom one of the few bright spots in the Philippine economy.

Congressmen, however, are pushing for the imposition of a franchise tax on telecom firms.

They argued that if Lucio Tan, Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and Philip Morris could agree to higher taxes

on eigarettes and alcohol, why couldn't the telecom companies, which they called the "lords of the cell phone ring," do the same?

Rep. Abraham Mitra (LP, Palawan) posed this challenge to the phone companies which are resisting the proposed franchise tax on their gross income.

The lords of the cell phone ring Mitra was referring to were Manuel Pangilinan of PLDT-Smart, the Ayalas of Globe Telecoms and John Gokongwei of Digital Communications.

Mitra noted that telecommunication firms were earning billions from dropped calls and from the by-the-minute measuring phone calls.

The people are in effect telling the relecom giants to reimburse us, through our government, and in the form of a franchise tax, for the money you are getting from us from those dropped or rounded off to the next minute calls," Mitra said.

Mitra said it was either they accept a franchise tax or revert to the per-pulse billing system in which calls are metered on a pulse basis consisting of six seconds.



WE ARE FAMILY

By Abigail L. Ho

sources.

TWO EXPLORATION firms finally

got the go-signal to engage in oil

and gas drilling following a land-

mark Supreme Court decision al-

lowing foreign companies to exproit the country's indigenous re-

Malacafiang awarded over the

weekend service contracts to

Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd. (Japex) and South Sea

Petroleum Holdings Ltd. to cor-

duct oil and gas exploration activ-

mes in two separate areas in the

Japex will drill for oil and gas off

The service contracts of the two

companies had been pending for

some time after the SC ruled in Jan-

eary 2004 that Republic Act No.

7942, or the Philippine Mining Act, was unconstitutional. On Wednes-

day, the SC reversed the decision.

the Tanon Strait in Negros Occi-

dental, while South Sea Petroleum

will explore for oil in the Agusan-

Davao Basin in Davao province,

INQUIRER chair Mariod Prieto and her grandson Ben Romualdez, son of PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, hand over a gift to an employee's child during the Philippine Daily Inquirer's annual Family Day held yesterday at the Assumption Convent gymnasium in San Lorenzo Village, Makati. Family Day marks the start of PDI's weeklong 19th anniversary celebration that will culminate on Friday. GREARAZAS

to hunt for oil, gas

with the exploration programs," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez

The two projects will involve the

Under the first phase of the two projects, Japex will invest \$500,000

while South Sea Petroleum wil. in-

fuse \$200,000 for the geophysical

survey of the Tanon Strait and Agu-

veys, Japex will invest another \$3

million for the drilling of the first

exploration well. South Sea Petroleum, on the other hand,

will sink in an additional

Both Japex and South Sea

Petroleum plan to drill three to

four wells each to determine the

commercial viability of the

Perez said that Malacafiang

would also likely approve this

month the exploration contract with a consortrum led by Australian

petroleum reserves.

\$750,000 for a similar drilling.

san-Davao Basin, respectively. Upon completion of the sur-

conduct of geophysical surveys and the drilling of wells to determine

the viability of the two locations.

said in a statement yesterday.

After SC ruling,

2 firms get OK



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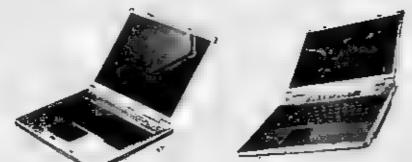






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"We are very pleased that firm BHP Bilkton Petroleum cover-Malacañang has given the go-sig-ing 8,000 square kilometers in the nal. We can now move ahead deepwater part of the Sulu Sea Firing of DOTC executive puzzles transport groups

By Clarissa S. Batino

A TOP official of the Department of Transportation and Communication, who implemented various reforms at the DOTC, has been fired by Malacañang, triggering widespread concern among transport groups that pending ininatives that the official had adopted could be stalled.

Transport Undersecretary Arturo Valdez, who had been with the DOTC almost eight years, recerved his walking papers two weeks ago. A termination memo signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita dated Nov.10 thanked Valdez for his services.

A certain Ricky Alfonso from the Presidential Management Staff was named as Valdez's replacement.

But representatives of transpart groups said they would send a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo today to question the removal of Valdez, the longest-serving among DOTC officials. They claimed that Valdez had helped address most of their concerns.

Valdez himself was puzzled by his sudden removal, saying he had no idea why he was fired. He, however, suspected that politics and vested interests may have had something to do with his ouster. "But I never begged for my position and I have accepted their decision," he said.

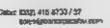
Valdez had reportedly refused to sign hundreds of unqualified peepney and bus franchises that had been endorsed by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

A member of a transport group suspected that Valdez might have blocked moves of other officials to open public franchises even to

unqualified groups.
Valdez said he was surprised to receive the memo in late November after attending a transport meeting during the recently held summir of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

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Block Burma's leadership of Asean, urges Pimentel

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday urged the government to block Burma's (Myanmar) assumption of the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), a regional grouping to which the Philippines belongs, in 2006.

Pimentel made the call saying he wanted the government, as well as the other members of Asean, to pressure Burma's military Junta to free Nobel Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other opposition political leaders from detention, as well as to institute democratic reforms in that country.

Pimentel issued the statement on his return from an Asean parhamentarian conference in Malaysia on Nov. 27-28 that discussed the "unjust restrictions on the freedom of movement of Burma's opposition leaders by the military junta," among other topics.

In a statement, the senator said Burma's military leaders last week extended Sun Ky's detention for one more year, while some 100 leaders of her party, the National League of Democracy (NLD), remained in prison.

Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since May 2003 following the Burma military's violent dispersal of a motorcade led by NLD members. Previously, the Nobel Prize winner had been placed under house arrest from 1989 to 1995 and again from 2000 to 2002.

"[The extension of Suu Kyi's house arrest was] in blatant disregard of Burma's commitment to respect the human rights of its people and to abide by democratic principles when it was admitted into Asean seven years ago," Pi-

He said he concurred with President Macapagal-Arroyo's move last week asking Burma Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Soe Win in Laos to allow Sun Kyi and the other opposition leaders to parncipate in the country's poutical processes.

Pimentel urged the Senate to ask Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo to express the chamber's sentiment that Burma's recent moves "make it unworthy to chair the Asean In 2006."

Libyan truce monitors set to arrive today

SECESSIONIST rebels in the southern Philippines yesterday welcomed the arrival of enother team of international truce monitors, this time from Libya, saying they would play a pivotal role in the resumption of formal peace talks with the government next year.

Contingent head Mohamed Mohamed Suwaisi and member Abubakar Ibrahim Wanis are arriving at 4:30 a.m. today aboard Qatar Airways. They will be followed by two other team members next week.

The pair will fly to Cotabato City on Wednesday to join monitors from Malaysia and Brunei who had earner been deployed to oversee the ceasefire agreement forged by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ahead of the peace talks aimed at ending the long-running in-

"It's a welcome development. It's a manifestation that the peace process is moving, contrary to speculations," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said in an interview. "Besides, Libya has committed to be part of the interna-

tional monitoring team." Despite isolated clashes between government troops and the rebeis, the ceasefire "has

been holding," partly due to the deployment of the monitors in former war zones in Min-

danao, Kabalu said. "Definitely, they're a big he.p," he added Government officials had voiced high hopes the involvement of the monitors in the peace process would bring both parties closer to an agreement to end the 26-year insurgen-

cy in the South.

The participation of the monitors in the peace process, along with the removal of government troops from the Buliok comp.ex, a former rebel stronghold, and the dropping of criminal charges against rebel leaders, was a condition for the resumption of the talks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, next

Malaysia had moved the date of the talks several times owing to the conflicts on the ground. Topping the agenda in next year's talks is the issue of ancestral domain. With Christian V. Esguerra, Troy Malcolm, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Lusat hi '79 reunion

HIGH school Class '79 of the La Union School of Arts and Trade (now the DMMMSU, mid-La Union campus) will hold its silver anniversary reunion on Dec. 30 at Apilado Hal., DMMM-SU, in San Fernando City.

Class members are asked to contact Edsel at tel. no. 242-6480 or cell no. (0920)641-4594, or Danny at 888-8025 or (0916)426-0136 for more information.

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'He wanted to embrace everybody'

Prom page A1

portions of the Sierra Madre.

Mountain's wrath At the time of his death, Fa-

northern Quezon (including Polillo Island) and Aurora. He

prelature of Infanta, covering words, the bishop's right hand and manager.

On the night of Nov. 29, at around 7 p.m., Father Cha, together with working student Dlonislo Cadungod, rushed to Baranguy Pilaway in Infanta to urge residents to leave their homes. He took people abourd a vehicle and brought them to safer ground.

Despite rising floodwaters, Pather Cha insisted on going back to the site to save more people. He tied a rope around himself and then flung the other end of the rope over the electric wires that led to an electric post. This way, he thought, he could safely reach out to evacuees while being attached to the wires which were high above the

Suddenly, a mighty wall of water carrying mud, rocks and logs came crashing down. The logs toppled the post and smashed everything and everyone in their way.

Father Cha and Dionisio were badly hit and tried to hang on to each other in the swirling waters. Faint and weak, the priest told Dionisio, "Hold on and save yourself, I cannot save you."

Although battered and muddied, Dionisio survived. He walked back to the convent and broke the bad news.

Hours later, Father Cha was found-still ued to the rope but lifeless. He was among the hundreds who lost their lives in Infanta, Real, Nakar and Dingalan towns and other places that went under.

When his friends in the prelature, Fr. Mario Raphael M. Castillo and Rev. Mario Van Loon, heard what happened, they both expressed sadness: "His death was a great loss to all of us. When any priest was in crisis, Pather Cha was there to help." On Saturday, his body was airlift-

ed from Infanta to Manula by an Au-

ther Cha was chancellor of the was also oeconomus, or in other Force Huey helicopter it lies at the Mount Carmel Shrine in Quezon City, now a hub of relief operations, and will be flown today to Midsayap, Cotabato, where his family

> "We have accepted his fate," his brother Frank said. "It's God's will that his life ended that way. It was his way of helping the poor and the needy."

Father Cha would have celebrated his 18th anniversary in the priestbood on Dec. 2 if it were not for the

Priesthood or bust

Born in September 1956 in Cagayan de Oro City, he was the third of eight children. His late father Bernardo served in the US Army during World War II and later as a soldier in the Philippine Armed Porces. His mother was a public school teacher.

"He was set on becoming a priest," older sister Bernardita recalled.

Cha attended the Notre Dame Seminary in Cotabato and later the Regional Major Seminary in Davao City. This was the martial law period and activism was strong even in the seminary confines.

His batch spoke out too loudly in defense of a batch ahead of them. To make a long story short, his group was asked to leave. Some were taken back later.

Church of the poor

infanta beckoned to Cha. He wanted to become a diocesan priest. He went to see Bishop Julio Labayen, head of the new prelature of Infanta. Lahayen was an outspoken critic of martial rule and a strong advocate of the "church of the poor."

Cha was admitted to the St. Alphonsus Liguori Seminary in Lucena, Quezon. He was ordained in 1986 ın St. Patrick Parish in Dingalan.

Why Dingalan? "We wanted the people, the church of the poor, in farflung areas to witness this kind of occasion," explained Labayen, who did the honors.

"Oh, I ordained him," the bishop said with both pride and sadness. "He was among those whose hearts were on fire for the poor."

Cha's first three-year assignment was in Burdeos on wind-swept Polillo Island. It was a difficult assignment but he was up to the challenge.

Pr. Edwin Agapay, now head of the formation house in Quezon City for seminarians of the Infanta prelature, stayed with him for some time after the former asked for a transfer from the wealthy Manila archd ocese to the poor prelature.

Guns and spirituality

"Pather Cha always had this welcoming attitude," said Agapay. "I never felt I was new. He loved to tell and listen to stories. He never thought of leaving this prelature. He wanted to die in Infanta."

His next assignment was in Casiguran, Aurora, where he was parish priest for 10 years.

In 1999, he enrolled at the University of the Philippines Los Baños for a master's degree in management. After he finished the course in 2001, Bishop Labayen appointed him chancellor and oeconomus.

Unknown to many Pather Cha owned a gun and was a member of a

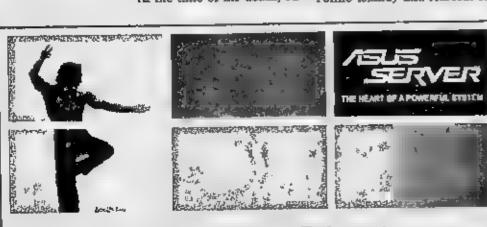
"He loved to shoot," Agapay said It was also to protect himself, Bishop Tirona revealed

He was worried about some illethough not an overt environmental gal loggers going after him. Alactivist, the priest knew what was

In his last moments, his true nature and spirituality shone through.

"His last moments spoke of who he really was," said Franciscan Fr Pete Montallana who saw the priest's muddied body being laid out.

Bishop Tria-Tirona summed it up: "He was a priest who wanted to embrace everybody." With reports from Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindango Bureau

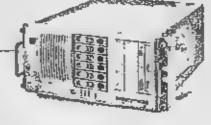


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Baguio artists showcase victims' pain

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Images of anguished faces glowering in rage and of families distraught by the presence of the military have been put on canvass and in song to benefit typhoon and human rights victims.

These are portraits, multimedia installations and albums that Baguio activists and artists hope to sell in an "art-for-food" benefit show launched on Sunday by filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik and by artists belonging to the Dap-ayan ti Kultura in Kordilyera (DKK)

Mayor Braulio Yaranon inaugurated "Liwliwa para iti Kappia" (Celebration for Peace) at the Victor Oteyza Community Art Space (Vocas) here to celebrate International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10.

He cut through a thick strand of barbed wire, which served as a ceremonial ribbon, to establish a "genuine human rights celebration."

Tahımik also raised a multimedia installation celebrating the centennial of the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, more popu-

larly known as the St. Louis World's Fair, where indigenous Filipinos, including Igorots, were made to perform as living exhibits.

Often criticized as the first documented case of racial abuse by the United States of the inhabitants of its colonies, the St. Louis Fair became the chronological root of Tahumik's documentation of human rights violations against Filipinos that still plague the country.

"Human rights is very apt (for this occasion). It has both aesthetics and political, meaning in our country that need (to be) reawakened," Tahimik said.

But the show was not initially designed to be a benefit exhibit, said Pio Verzola, executive director of the Northern Media Information Network, which produced Liwliwa.

Verzoia said militants needed to translate their feelings and philosophies into art pieces because their slogans and marches had turned people off.

Art, he said, helps illustrate issues to people who would otherwise dismiss groups like DKK as "Lefusts" or "communists."

 Verzola said the recent natural and manmade disasters that his the country convinced

the groups that raising funds for victims, and launching an education campaign, raight be a step in the right direction after all.

Myke Sotero, DKK secretary general, said the Baguio-based arrists were heartbroken by the tales of striking sugarcane workers in Hacienda Lausita in Tarlac. At least seven people, most of them hacienda workers, were killed in a violent dispersal on Nov. 16.

Their art pieces share this human grief.' Sotero's "Hacienda Golgotha" and

Sotero's "Hacienda Golgotha" and
"Obrero" feature screaming heads painted
against a golden backdrop of clear skies and a
grim scarlet of pain.

Duday Maranan painted a sea of faceless pedestrians rushing by a bearded sharp-eyed man she called "Taong Grasa."

Aside from Tahimik, top Baguio artists like Tommy Hafalla, Kigao Rosimo, Darnay Demerillo, Bobby Acosta and Jordan Mangosan donated pieces to the fund drive.

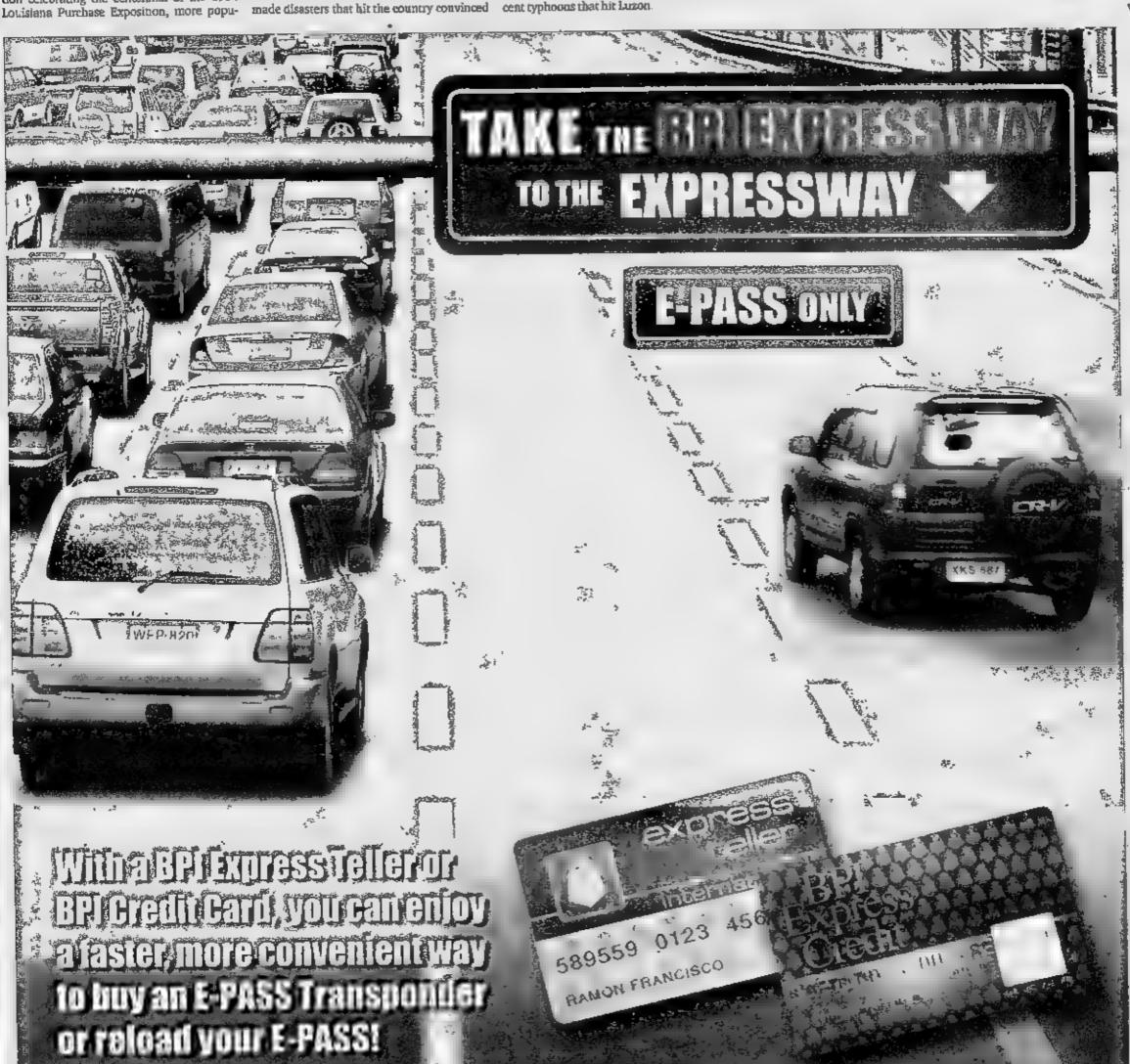
Proceeds from the show will be coursed through human rights organizations working in the towns and provinces ravaged by the re-

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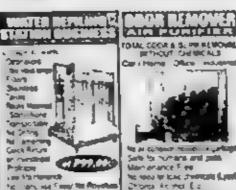
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After calamity, AFP opts for austere fete

By Christian V. Esquerra

POR THE first time in almost seven decades, the Armed Porces of the Philippines (AFP) will not hold a рогиром авплиеталу celebration—usually a very expensive af faur-preferring to donate the funds to the victums of the typhoons that recently bit the country.

For its 69th anniversity on Dec. 21, the mood will be austere, highlighted by a simple flag raising ceremony at mutary genera, headquarters Quezon City, accord-

P 15,000

ing to AFP Chief of cil's rehef operations Staff Gen. Efren Abu.

This will be the first time the AFP will forgo a formal ceremony," said Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascuai AFP information officer, in a statement.

The P13 million budgeted for the celebration will instead be used to purchase renef goods for the thousands of victims of the four recent typhoons, Pascua, said

The commanders of the multary's three major services—the Army, Navy and Air Force -w.li also each donate P1 million to at Camp Aguinaldo in the National Disaster Coordinating Coun-

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In the past, AFP anniversames were a showcase of extravagance There were cocktails, fireworks, a flashy pass-in-review before VIPs on the parade ground, and ra-

DÉCEMBER 6, 2004

dio and television ads Abu unnounced the decimon to hold an austere celebration following his visit on Saturday to Real and Infanta in Quezon, the two towns hardest for by landrudes and flash floods.

In Barangay Tignoun in Real, residents had to walk at least 2.5 khometers just to reach Anthy trucius that would transport them to relief centers.

During Abu's visit, Army engineers were working with the Department of Public Works and Highways to clear the Rea thfanta road in order to expedite the distribution of relief goods

The Army was also clearing a lands ide that had killed himdreds of people in Barangey Taneuan in Real It was one of more than 20 andslides on the road leading to Infanta. the maistary said.

St. Peter's reunion

CLASS '94 of -609 Te ter's College of Ormbo wai hold a reunion at Sabin's Beach Resoft, Ormoc City, on Dec 26. Class members may contact Nadia Cortes at cell phone no. (0917)328-5347; Coeli Fiel, (0917)328-5347 or Angela Abucay, (0917)306-0009, for details.

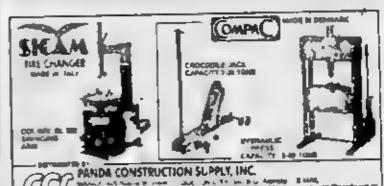
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armed Ecleo followers nabbed in south

By Jhunner Napallacan PDi Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Eight members of the Philippina Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), the cult headed by Ruben Ecieo Jr., were arrested in Lapulapu City Priday night for pos-session of high-powered firearms.

Selzed were an M-16 tifle, three baby Annalites, several . grenades, silencers, .assorted ammunition, bonners, fatigue uniforms and wigs.

Nestor Carrol of Lapulapu City claimed he owned the firearms which he was supposed to *deliver" to communist rebels in Catbalogan, Samar, for P300,000.

Carrol, 34, said it was just a coinci-

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er passengers in the van with him were PBMA members.

Police alleged the group had a "special mission" in Cebu-to

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Supt. Louie Opthe parricide case pus, chief of the Lapulapu police, suid there was nothing to indicate that the arrested PBMA mem-

Yongco murder case. But Senior Supt. Cecil Ezra Sandalo, head of the Central Visayas Regional Intelligence and investigation Divi-Alona Bacolod-Ecleo. bers had links to the soon disagreed.

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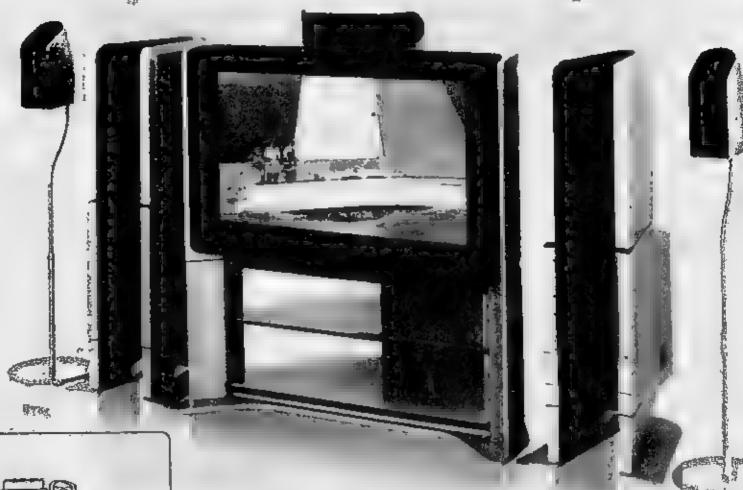
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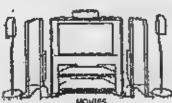
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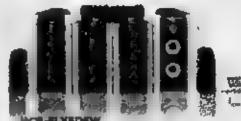




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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Ukraine rivals locked in new standoff

KIEV-Ukraine's pro-West opposition was locked in a ments reached during previous protestor, 40-year-old Mykola fresh standoff with the ruling regime Sunday that cast a shadow over preparations for a rerun of the contested presidential vote later this mouth.

supreme court that invalidated the Nov. 21 poll as riddled with fraud, opposition leader Viktor Yüshchenko has refused to vote would dilute the powers of the presidency, which he might win.

The dispute over the constitutional reforms has also blocked important changes to the electotal law which the opposition say are needed to prevent fraud uy the Dec. 26 rerun vote.

Seen as the favorite ahead of the new vote against pro-Russian. Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Yushchenko was defiant before a massed crowd of

Armed with a ruling from the supporters in Kiev's central Independence Square late Saturday.

We agreed to pass political reforms after the election. The electoral process is not over. Right for constitutional changes that now we have to talk about the election, the election is the theme of the day," Yushchenko said.

"We're being offered constitutional reform, we are given a document that doesn't have anything to do with the election—is that an honest dialogue?" he added.

Outgoing President Leonid Kuchma on Saturday called European negotiators back to Kiev for a third round of talks to break the new deadlock with the opposition.

Kuchma charged that agree-

roundtable discussions "are not being carried out by the opposition, which is leading to an increase of tensions in the country," according to a statement from the presidency.

The opposition has so far prevented parliament from adopting constitutional changes that would hand a number of powers from the president to the prime minister and that Kuchma has been trying to push through for more than a year.

Analysts say Kuchma's aim as he steps down after 10 years of difficult rule in this former Soviet republic is to keep his influence through parliament, where progovernment forces are still strong.

The new president must be strong. Now is not the time to pass this law, maybe in a year or two when he has put his stamp on the country," said one opposition

Daniluk.

During previous roundtable talks held at the height of the crisis, Yushchenko had agreed to negotiare the passage of the constitutional amendments along with amendments to the electoral law for a rerun of the invalidated Nov. 21 poll.

A new round of talks to be held on Monday will bring together the same participants as the previous two rounds-including both presidential candidates, Kuchma, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewsld, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and Russia's parliament speaker Boris Gryzlov.

The supreme court ruled Friday that results from the earlier election were tainted by fraud and ordered a fresh second round, which the central election commission



UKRAINE'S opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko (left) and his top ally Yufia Timoshenko sing the national anthem during a raily in Kiev Dec. 4. Ukramian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said defiantly he would take on Yushchenko in a new election battle, a day after a court stripped him of his title of president-elect.

Musharraf says no clues to Osama's whereabouts



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WASHINGTON-The search for al-Qaida leader Osama bin a Laden has gone cold and there is no indica-tion of his where-

> ident Pervez Musherraf told the Washington Post in an interview published on a Sunday. Musharraf said Pakistani forces were still aggressively pursumg Bin Laden but ... that recent security operations and interrogation had deter-

abouts, Pakistani Pres-

was still alive "He is alive, but more than that, where he is, no, it'li be just a guess and it won't have much basis," Musharraf was quoted as saying in the interview.

mined only that he

Pressed whether Bin Laden's trail had gone cold, Mushamaf told the Post: "Yes, if you mean we don't know, from that point of view, we don't know where he is."

Musharraf met on' Saturday with US President George W. Bush, who praised: his ally's efforts in the was on terrorism and the search for Bin Laden, whose al-Qaida militant network carried out the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

One of the most sensitive issues between the two coun- ? tries is the unsuccessful three-year hunt ? along the Afghan Pakustan border for the al-Qaida leader.

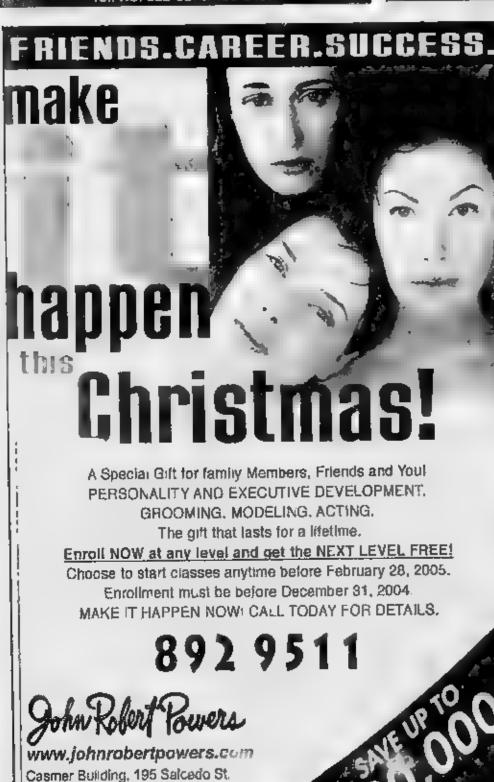
The president has been a determined leader to bring to justice not only people like Osama bin Laden, but to bring to justice those who would inflict harm and pain on his own people," Bush said after their meeting in the Oval Office,

Musharraf told the Post the US-led coalldon did not have enough troops in Afghenistan, which had left "voids." He said the United States and its ailies needed to speed the training and expansion of the new Afghan army. Reuters

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car bombings here and in Baghdad have left over 40 people dead in Iraq, as the UN's top advisor for the country said the current climate of insecurity makes holding landmark elections in January impossible.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's cinef in Mosul, Saad Pira, told APP that 17 Kurdish militiamen were killed and more than 40 wounded when a suicide car bomber rammed their convoy as they were traveling through the Karama neighborhood of Mosul Saturday afternoon.

"An Opel car slammed into the convoy and exploded against the minibuses, two of which were totally gutted by fire," Pira said.

The US military said that two of its soldiers their patrol came under attack, without providing further details.

Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, is rife with eth-nic tension between its Kurdish and Arab communities. After Iraqi president Saddam Hussein fell from power in 2003, Kurdish political parties set up offices there, guarded by peshmergas.

Earlier in Baghdad, at least four policemen were killed and 49 others wounded in a dou-

MOSUL, Iraq—A wave of attacks including bie car bombing, medies said, a day after 26 car bombings here and in Baghdad have left people were killed in twin attacks claimed by militants loyal to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Iraq's most-wanted man.

Another 16 tracks were reported killed in a wave of attacks across the country, while two more US soldiers were killed in attacks Saturday.

Two cars were detonated simultaneously in Baghdad, ripping through the Salhiyah police station just outside the main entrance to the heavily fortified "Green Zone," home to embassies and Iraqi government offices, the US military said.

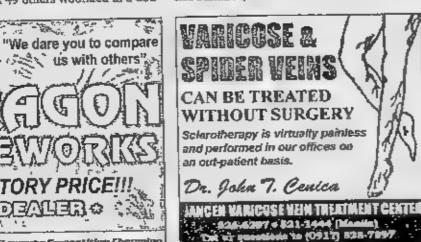
The attacks were the latest in a line of strikes against Iraq's US-backed security forces who have become prime targets for inwere also killed in Mosus on Saturday when surgents seeking to destabilize the country ahead of elections set for Jan. 30.

UN traq envoy Lakhdar Brahimi told the Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad in an inserview published Saturday that the vote could only take place "if first and foremust security emproves."

If the poll took place only in secure areas of frag it would exclude the Sunni minority, who live in extremely tense areas such as Pallujah and Samarra, Brahimi said.



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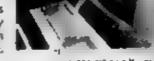


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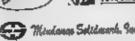
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Colombia drug boss tastes US prison cell

MIAMI-The former boss of Colombia's Cali taken to a Miami penitentiary, a US law encocaine carrel was in a US prison cell on Saturday after an extradition that capped a 14year investigation into his multibillion-dollar drug business.

The most important drug trafficker ever handed over to US justice by Colombia, Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela was flown into an undisclosed airport early on Saturday and

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forcement official said.

He was being held in a cell until an initial court appearance on Monday, the official said . on condition of anonymity. No details were

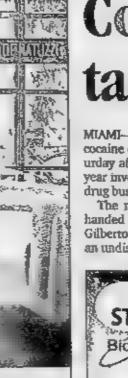
Known in the 1980s and early 1990s as the "Chess Player" for his ability to outwit police, the now gray-haired 65-year-old capo was

one of the last of Colombia's legendary 6. outlaws to run the co- ie caine business from 2 jungle laboratories to • overseas distribu- 4

Colombian author- (ities say he continued to run his empire from jail after being arrested in 1995 and after a ban on extraditions was lifted two years later.

He and other defendants named in indictments in Miami and New York face charges of conspiracy to import and distribute cocame and of money laundering. If convicted, he faces life imprisonment on the drug charges and up to 20 years prison time for money laun-

US justice authorities want the courts to seize \$2.1 bilhon—the amount they say was involved in the money launconspiracy i nin by Rodriguez 4 Orejueia. Reuters





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CANBERRA—Australia's Aboriginal tions at a local level that keep families proach to indigenous affairs over communities might lose some basic rights under a tough new approach to help lift their living standards.

Prime Minister John Howard said the government needed to support solutions put forward by local communities such as curfews and alcohol bans even if they infringed on universal civil rights.

He said staying alive was more important for Aborigines than any 1970s view of civil liberties.

The prime minister has won support from two of Australia's most respecied Aboriginal leaders, Pat Dodson and Noel Pearson, for his approach which will end passive welfare payments and which the government says will build serf respect within indigenous communities.

together, reassert the authority of parents, instill a greater sense of responsibility in parents and Aboriginal leaders," Howard told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The prime minister has had a strained relationship with Aboriginal for past injustices and for his apmore spiritual issues such as tradi-Honal land rights.

Tensions between black and white Australians have been at flash point in the past week after rioters burned down a police station and courthouse at the Palm Island Aboriginal community off leaders over his refusal to apologize north Queensland following the death of a local man in police custody. Reuters

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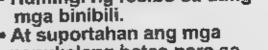
"Masisipag at matiyagang magturo ang mga guro sa pampublikong paaralan na aming pinapasukan. Ngunit nakalulungkot po na hindi kayang punuan ng kanilang sipag at tiyaga ang mga kakulangan sa pampublikong edukasyon. Gaya ng sapat na dami ng guro, silya at mga aklat, at mga makabagong kagamitan tulad ng computer at educational television.

Dalawa lang sina Janeth at Jel sa kay daming estudyante ng mga pampublikong paaralan na nangangailangan ng mas malaking suporta ng gobyerno. Dagdag na pondo ang kailangan upang magkaroon ng disenteng gusali, sapat na dami ng guro at nararapat na mga pasilidad ang mga paaralang ito.

Higit na matutulungan ang mga pampublikong paaralan at mahihirap na estudyanteng gaya Hirap na nga po kami sa mga personal na gastos sa pag-aaral at kahit sa pamasahe at allowance. Kayat malaking tulong po sa mahihirap na estudyanteng tulad namin ng kapatid kong si Jel kung mabibigyan ng sapat na gamit at pasilidad ang mga pampublikong paaralan "

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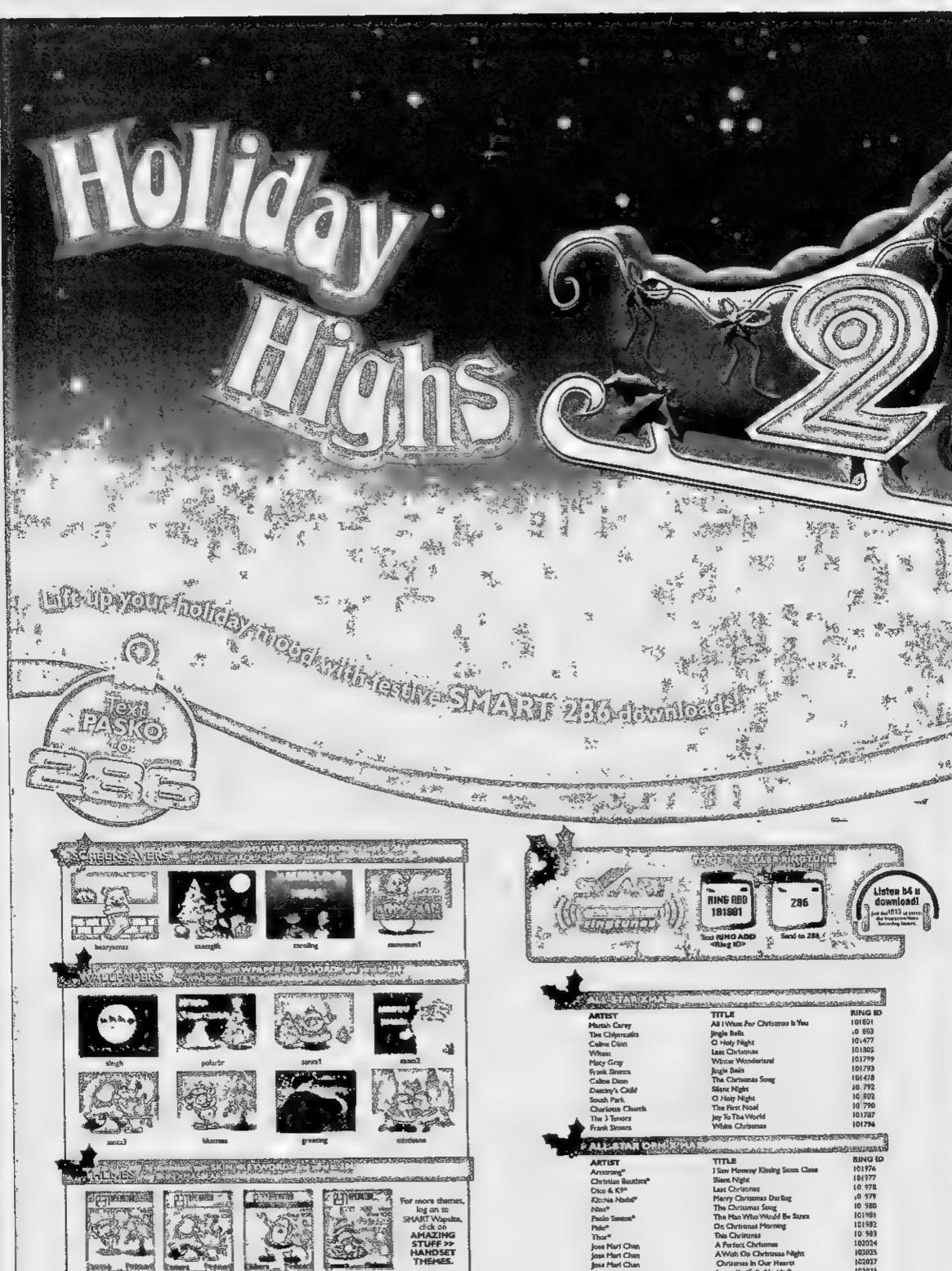
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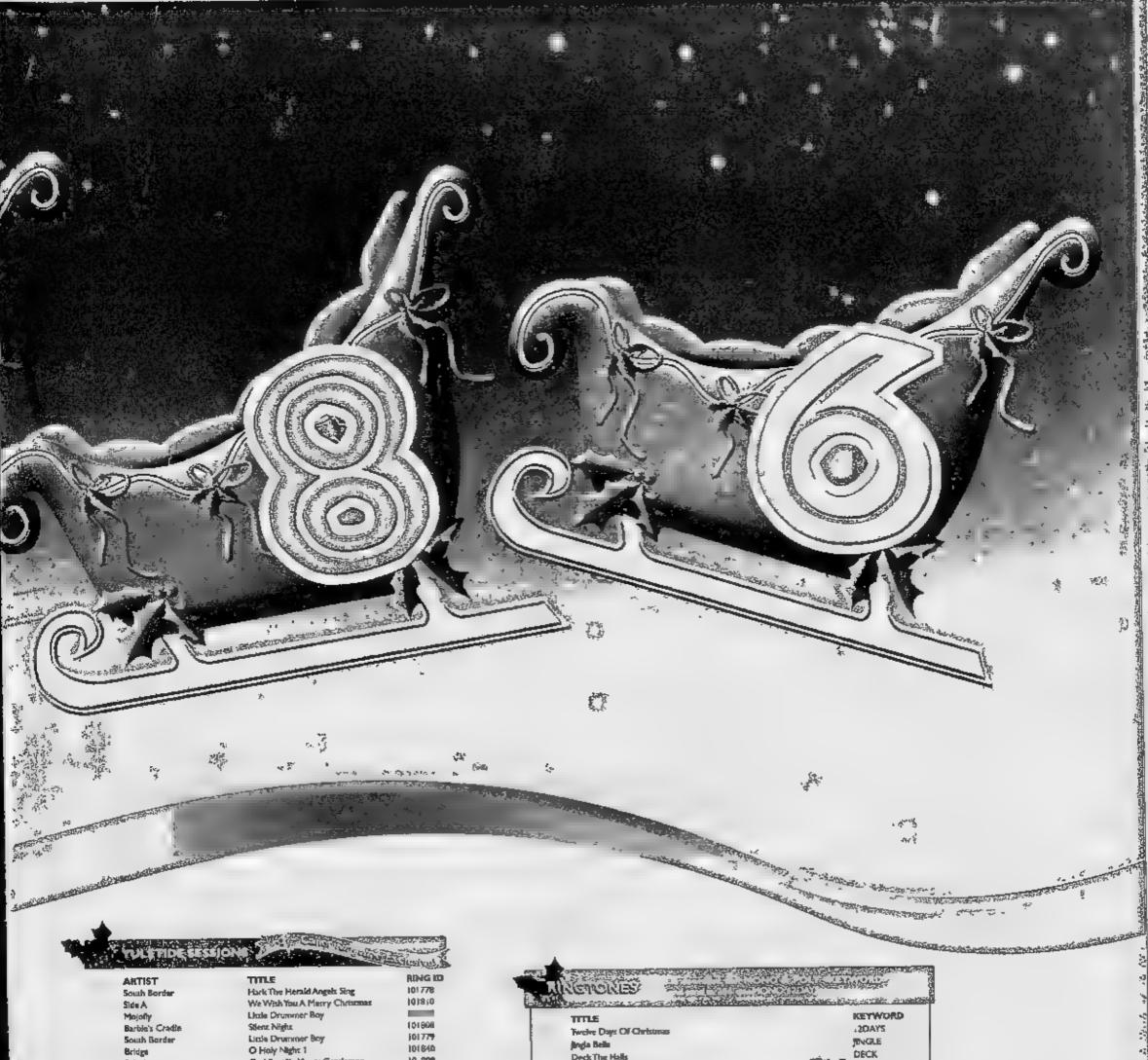




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Vol. 19 No. 362

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Not entitled

O BE certain, Senate President Franklin Drilon's appeal to his fellow legislators to give up part of their pork barrel funds in favor of the many flood and landshide victims seemed not a little gimmicky—as though he were in part playing to the gallery.

But there is so much wrong with House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles' terse reply to Drilon's challenge that we can overlook the senator's grand-

EDITORIAL stand play.

What, exactly, did the gentleman

from Davao City say?

"We have already given up our pork. Did anyone give up their pork when we were bombed in Davao and for the war in Mindanao? So many people died there, too, right?" Nograles said last Friday, in a text message he sent the INQUIRER.

Strictly speaking, congressmen have not given up their potk—only a portion of it, and if continuing delay forces the reenactment of the present budget, not even that. But Nograles' imprecision is telling, because it reveals the sense of entitlement that underlies our lawmakers' attitude to the pork barrel.

To mistake sacrificing a portion for the entire sum is to emphasize, not what is given up, but the one doing the giving up. It's as if Nograles—and on this matter he is truly the majority leader, because he speaks for most congressmen—begridged the reduction in funds so much that he thinks he has practically lost the entire pork barrel. He is rather like a salaried employee who, after withholding taxes are deducted from his pay, melodramatically complains that the government has taken everything!

The employee has grounds for feeling that way; he must believe, after all, that he is entitled to all the fruits of his labor. But Nograles and other congressmen? Why would they feel that way about giving up part of the pork barrel, if they did not feel similarly entitled to ALL of it?

Nograles also seeks to draw a parallel between the recent tragedies and the wave of terror that swept certain parts of Mindanao. Did anyone give up their pork then, he asks? But back then there was no fiscal crisis, no national soul-searching over the use and abuse of the pork barrel. Back then, giving up the pork barrel wasn't even being

But we are in the middle of one such crisis now. Contrary to President Macapagal-Arroyo's starting announcement last month, the country is still very much on the road to default. According to the economists from the University of the Philippines, that terrible milestone may be only two or three years away. And for all the hue and cry that followed the President's admission last August that a budget crisis did in fact exist, none of the eight revenue measures needed has yet been passed. There is some movement, yes; but just because things are in motion does not mean, as the President took it to mean last month, that the crisis is in fact over.

Nograles' reply also assumes the basic fallacy that legislators now take for granted: that they bear part of the executive branch's responsibility for their respective districts. This attitude is transparent in Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo's reply to Drilon.

"May I stress that senators do not have direct constituencies, unlike congressmen who are answerable to their districts," the President's eldest son said. The young Arroyo was not propounding a novel theory of the separation of powers; that is beyond his ken. He was simply repeating the rationalization congressmen use to justify their greater need for the pork barrel; that is, that they have a direct constituency, that they are answerable to their districts.

Nonsense. In our system of government, all elected officials have a direct constituency; just because a senator is elected at large does not make his constituency any less direct. And, contrary to the young Arroyo's view, all government officials—not just congressmen—are answerable to the public.

The problem is, Nograles, Arroyo and most other congressmen define being answerable in another way. We do not mean to be facetious, but if the pork barrel is truly the answer, what in heaven's name is the question?



WHAT the people of Rodriguez (Montalban) feared and warned about has become a reality. For more than six years, they have repeatedly been warning of flash floods and landstides because of rampant quarrying in their municipality and in the neighboring town of San Matro. But nobody listened to them. Now they have been proven correct. But at what cost? A mumber of people died, hundreds of homes were descroyed.

swamped by the floods brought by the storms.

While the floods and landslides in Aurora,
Quezon, and Nueva Ecija were caused by illegal logging, those in Rodriguez and Maritima

were caused by quarrying
The people of Rodnguez, led by Dr. Pastor
Cruz, have been urging for years to stop the
quarrying. They were guests a few times at the
Kapihan sa Manila where they repeated their
urgent calls. But national and local officials,
from the President down, didn't listen.

In the Aug. 16, 1998 assue of the INQUIREN, this column commented that while President Estrada sent Environment Secretary Antomo Cerilles to far-off Siquijor in the Visayas to investigate complaints of quarrying there, his administration was not doing anything to stop the quarrying in Rodriguez and San Mateo, both of which are only an hour's drive from the central office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Metro Manila

I wrote then. "Experts have reported that the quarrying of gravel from the foot of the mountains has triggered soil erosion and that during heavy rains, the communities below them would be swamped with mud and water.

"A report by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) said: "When the rainy season comes, massive siltation of rivers and other tributaries are expected. Worst, these ensuing phenomena are expected to create a damming effect on the upstream areas which will eventually lead to flash floods that will devastate lives and properties in the low-lying areas." The report specifically pomted to residents of Montalban, Mankina and Pasig as po-

rial casualties. The residents of Montalban have com-

LAST Wednesday, we woke up violently to the

news that the parish priest of Infanta had drowned in the floods. The parish priest of In-

fanta is my brother-in-law, my wrie's brother,

Francisco, whom everyone calls Father Boy.

The last time we were in Infanta was in April

when he was installed as that town's parish

priest. It was a summer's day, the sun fretted

and gave the beach—where we repaired to af-

terwards—a shimmering glow. The sense of

warmth was enlivened in no small way by folk

taking liberal swigs of fiery lambanog in the

makeshift huts underneath the coconut trees.

the real news was no less tragic. A priest did die in the flood. He was Fr. Charlito Colen-

dres, the chancellor of the Prelature of Infanta

for the last two years. Father Cha's heroism

was recounted and extolled in the inquiren

last week. He had tied one end of a rope to a

tree and had thrown the other end to people

caught in a flash flood when he himself was

swept away by the rampaging water. The sur-

vivors would later remark that Father Cha

died on the very day we celebrate National

Heroes Day, But it was no great comfort to his

folios, who waited at Mr. Carmel for days for

his body to be airlifted to Manila. No chopper

could land in Infanta at that time. The place

We were there once in the early 1980s, and a

storm had swirled there. When it cleared next

day, a group of us headed home by bus. At the

time, a trip to and from Real took anywhere

from nine to 15 hours, depending on the weather and the state of the bus, which was

invariably decrepit. The road after Siniloan

going to Real was rough and narrow, winding

around the mountains. An hour after we left

Real, we found our way blocked by a land-

slide. The rains had loosened a part of the cliff

beside the road. Rocks and branches lay half

buried in the mud. Nothing could pass

driver telling those who wished to go ahead

there was only one way they could do so. That

The bus could do nothing but turn back, the

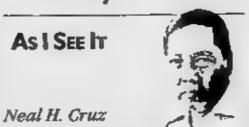
through, certainly not a bus.

I know how a mudshde in Real looks like.

teemed with knee-high mud and debris.

The news about Father Boy was wrong, but

Nobody listened



plained against the quarrying for years to many government officials and agencies, but it is as if they (the officials) are deaf and blind. According to documents I got, they sought the attention of then President Corazon C. Aquino during her incumbency. They have gone through the proper channels, that is: from the office of Gov, Yto Ynares. They have sought the intercession of Sen. Orlando Mercado in his capacity as chair of the Senate committee on environment. They have touched base with practically all of those who served as environment secretary, all the way to the incumbent.

"All for naught; no definitive action has been

President Macapagal-Arroyo, reacting to the recent tragedy that left hundreds of people dead and millions of pesos worth of crops and properties lost, has now suspended all logging operations in the country. What about quarrying? It is doing as much harm to the environ-

This is what happens because of quarrying. Rocks and whole hillsides are blasted and ground into gravel which are sold for use in construction projects in Metro Manila. During the blasting, soil, stones and rocks are loosened. The rock-crushing sends soil and dust into the streams and rivers. The ensuing siltation makes these waterways shallower and narrower, reducing their holding capacity for water. Thus, during heavy rains, they overflow and inundate the surrounding areas. Worse, siltation has a "damming" effect on the water When that "dam" breaks, a wall of water rushes down and swamps the communities below. That was what happened during the storms.

When will our officials open their eyes? Are' they waiting for another Ormoc-type tragedy—where thousands perished—to happen?

Ironically, the local officials of the rowns of

Ironically, the local officials of the towns of Rodriguez and San Mateo, and of Rizal province, as well as of the DENR and Malacañang, are not sympathetic to the pleas of Dr. Cruz and his group. The LGUs collect fees from the quarry operators. Even their neighbors do not appreciate what Dr. Cruz's group is espousing. Many of them work for the quarry operators. Now, perhaps, they will finally disten.

In a sense, the people of Aurora, Quezon and Nueva Ecija—who were the worst hit by the landslides and floods—were in the same boat as the residents of Rodriguez and San, Mateo. In interviews with media people who managed to reach their stricken barangays, many residents there admitted that they worked for the illegal loggers. Several even admitted they did their own cutting, justifying their actions as "the only way they can feed their families." So it is, as if they are being punished by nature for their sins.

indeed, the photographs and video footage of millions of cut logs littering the , beaches, rivers and plains of the three provinces, with the hald Sierra Madre Mountains in the background, prove that the people went on a massive tree-cutting spree. As if an "open season" had been declared against any standing tree there.

Even young tree seedlings, no stouter than a man's arm, are cut; and their roots, which hold the soil and water together, are dug up. They are sold to landscape architects and garden suppliers in Metro Manila. Television showed stacks of them beside the

damaged houses.

The TV footage also showed children putting charcoal into sacks. For charcoal-making—which is even more harmful to the forests—is a common occupation in the hilly areas to supply the needs of sidewalk barbecue vendors, lechon-manok-liempo stands, and thaw-thow restaurants in urban areas.

Death

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



was to walk several kilometers up to a clearing in the mountain where another bus waited. We did. My daughter Miranda was still a kid then and I carried her up on my shoulders while we trudged on slippery mud for what seemed like eternity. When the rain fell in a torrent, we took shelter among the huis that dotted the road intermittently. You could see the mud and rock and branches being washed down the road into the ravines. When we finally got to the clearing, I felt like I had gone through war.

I remembered that ordeal when I saw the footage on TV about what had happened to Real, Infanta and Dingalan. And multiplied it a thousand times. What we went through was nothing compared to this. This was tragedy of indescribable proportions. For days on end, I would hear keening on TV, from those who had lost home, hearth and loved ones. Bodies were strewn everywhere, most of them children. One news crew fished out Christmas lights from the thick mud in Dingalan, driving home the full extent of the tragedy. Christmas is a season expressly reserved for children-indeed when all of Christendom sees the world through the eyes of a child again. The bodies of the children were mangled and torn, like plastic dolls. They had been pummeled by rock, earth and rolling logs. The logs lay everywhere too, incontrovertible evidence of a hemous crime.

My daughter, Miranda, who reported on Polilio, was awed by the devastation. Bodies had washed up to shore in that island, probably coming all the way from Real, delivered there by the tides. There were precious few animals left in Polilio, which lay off Quezon, right on the Pacific Ocean. Left outside be-

yond the pale of shelter, the carabaos, goats and pigs had perished in the lash of wind and

I felt a personal sense of loss. I had known these places for some time, I had been going there since the 1970s and seen them grow, or deteriorate, over the years. The storm drove home again how urterly vulnerable that part of the world is to natural and human calamities. Lying at the eastern seaboard of this archipelago, it is the fist line of defense against the not very pacific upheavals of the Pacific. Lying in the throes of poverty, moreover, it has very little defense against these ravages. The completion of the highway going there has not lessened the misery, it has increased it through more frenzied logging That is the human calamity that afflicts Dingalan, Infanta and Real today. The tragedy that visited those places last week wasn't wrought by the hand of God, it was wrought

by the hand of greed.

But I will put off my anger for tomorrow. Today, I mean only to grieve for the people of Quezon and be one with them. How can a season of
life so swiftly turn into a season of death? I'ver mean only to extol the herosom of Patier Cha
and all the religious and lay workers who have
tied themselves to a tree and thrown the other
end of a rope to people drowning in the rampaging water. It is a testament to their fortitude
and the mercy of the God they serve that none
of them has been swept away, other than in the
physical sense of it. That is all my source of hope
in this season of death, that death shall have no

dominion, as Dylan Thomas puts it.

By his own death, Father Cha has done just that. He has given us hope life will shoot out through the rubble.

I've gotten a lot of text messages from people who want to contribute goods and services but do not quite know whom to give them to. One very good place is Mt. Carmel Shrine on Broadway, New Manila. Their Tel. No. is 7245938, local 114. Or you can call ortext Sister Zenia, 0919-6366127, I'm helping

Corpus will need GMA's full support

SEN. Edgardo Angara disputes allegations by two priests from Aurora and Quezon and the New People's Army that his family has profited from illegal logging activities in the province of Aurora, this includes campaign funds from the illegal loggers there. The allegations may not gain cre-dence. I for one don't believe them.

But definitely, the Angaras cannot escape sharing blame for the devastation that has struck Aurora-for the simple reason that nothing happens there without their knowing it. They have total control of the province: aside from the senator, his sister, former three-term Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, is now governor, replaced in the House by Senator Angara's son, Juan Edgardo Angara; their younger brother is mayor of the capital town of Baler. At the very least, the Angaras seemed not to have exerted enough effort to help curb the rampant logging in Aurora, especially in San Luis and Dingalan, one of the worst hit along the Pacific coast.

For instance, it's well known in the area that a logging firm operating in Aurora and Quexon, run by a Sigma Rho fraternity brod of Angara, has as its financier a Chinese businessman known out there as one of the members of the "Hong Kong Group." This Chinese is also known for buying illegal logs from the Baluga natives and the townspeople. His firm has been the subject of complaints from another company, for encroaching into areas outside its concession. In fact, the DENR regional executive director, Primitivo C. Galinato Jz, in a Sept. 29, 2003 memo to former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun, recommended a stop to the firm's operations, the relief of its active personnel and the confiscation of its log stockpile in Dingalan. Had the authorities clamped down on that firm and others there, the damage wrought by "Winnie" and "Yoyong" might have been minimized.

Recent intelligence reports indicate that in the Last two years, sawmills have sprouted right along the banks of the Unitray River at the boundary of Aurora and Quezon provinces and Agos

OUT of respect for and in empathy with the thou-sands of hapless victims of the series of weather

disturbances in the past two weeks, I am limiting

my comment on the badly scripted "briefing

staged by the administration (on what it has sup-

posedly done to help the homeless and the hun-

gry victims), probably in the hope it would some-

how cover up the fact that the government is so

bankrupt it could not even adequately respond to

creeps. The concept, format and the contrived

phone ins gave one an cerie sense of déjà vu

With an obviously disoriented, distracted and dis-

interested Gioria Macapagal-Arroyo presiding, n

looked and sounded so much like Ferdinand Mar-

Thank heaven, while Ms Arroyo's hordes of

secretaries, assistants and advisers were planning

the lighting and positioning of the mikes for the

media show, Mel Tiangco of GMA 7's Kapuso

Foundation and the volunteers of the ABS-CBN

Poundation were already packing relief goods, and the INCORER, ABC S's Tulong Bayan, and oth-

er private organizations were collecting contribu-

tions from concerned countrymen--here and

abroad-who had enough confidence in these

But there is stark reality here staring us in the

What if, God forbid, natural calamities of such

face. Reality of the kind that dictates basic sur-

force and widespread destruction hit Mindanao,

rendering futile our puny artempts at damage control? Crops destroyed, farmlands rendered

It is no coincidence that the majority of the vic-

tims of typhoons, earthquakes and floods are

food producers—the tillers of the soil and the

fisherfolk. They suffer most in the aftermath of

It does not help that as I am writing this, a

reader sends a text message: "Did it know that

GMA has an all female economic team? Finance

Secretary Juanuta Amatong, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodia, Rep. Joey Salceda, Neda Direc-

tor Romy Nerl, Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima,

disaster famine, disease, homelessness

media outfits to give whatever they could.

useless by constant inundation?

cos' last briefing before the fall of his regime

Except to say that the production gave me the



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



River and in the surrounding areas 4 or 5 kilometers inland, Former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, aided by military forces aboard a helicoptes, closed down the first sawmill there just before he was fired by the President in December 2002; he also confiscated the chamsaws used by the natives to cut down logs. Twelve days after new Secretary Michael Defensor took over the DENR from Gozun (Alvarez's successor, in GMA's second term), he was said to have found four sawmills in the area. Reports say there are about 400 chain saws in the devastated areas. (These are very deadly, for each one, in the hands of just one or two people, can cut so many century-old trees in a matter of minutes.)

Warnings about the impending disaster in Aurora and northern Quezon came from various quarters, but it seems they went largely unheeded. On April 27, 2004, 10 barangay captains from the municipality of General Nakar, one of the worst hit areas in Quezon, wrote a letter to Gozun warning about how trees are rampantly being cut. Said the Nakar barangay chiefs: "Putuloy ang walang patumanggang pagpuputol ng kahay na ang ibig sabihin namin ay walang pinipiling sukat o edad ng mga iba't-ibang uri ng kahoy, kuhit saan lugar, mapa-watershed man ito o sa tabi ng mga talusan, mga sapo at mga ilog ng aming bayan, na siyang karaniwang nangyayari."

But this complaint appears to have fallen on deaf ears. For suddenly, in the rampaging typhoons, tens of thousands of illegal logs were washed from the muddy slopes of the mountains down the rivers like scud missiles, de-

stroying lives, property and infrastructure, including bridges.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed re-tired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus as the anti-illegal logging czar and reforestation chief. Corpus is a very good appointment, for early on in his colorful military career, he had demonstrated his concern for the environment. After he returned to the government fold, he undertook on his own a reforestation project in Jamindan, Capiz.

Moreover, malakas ang loob ni Corpus. He has battled the big drug lords. Which is good; the task of anti-illegal logging czar will bring him into collision course with politicians big and small, and military and police officials who may be in cahoots with illegal loggers. But as former Environment Secretary Alvarez has said in a press statement, there are enough laws to curb illegal logging. As he stressed, "what happened in Aurora and Quezon was "not a failure of policy, but a failure to enforce

Indeed, Corput will have enough laws to back him up. What he will need to be effective against illegal logging is unequivocal and categorical support from the President. Sadly, however, GMA's record in standing up to political pressure has not been encouraging. Recall that the nationwide perception was that she sacked Alvarez from the DENR after he went against big vested interests in fishing, mining and logging, among them the Pichaya, Bernardinos, Alcanturas and Sandovals. GMA replaced him with an unknown named Elisea Gozun, who was recommended by some segments of civil society and Palace advisers with their own agenda. But Gozun was soon perceived as incapable of standing up to the loggers and their politician-backers. The proliferation of sawmills right on the banks of the Umiray River is perhaps proof of this.

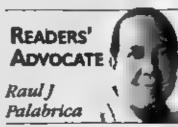
Let's hope, for the sake of the country, that in her second wind, GMA means what she says, that she will wage war on illegal loggers and

back Corpus all the way.

Off the record

TWO weeks ago, President Macapagal-Arroyo met with the aditorial staff of the Inquium to discuss the latest developments in her administration. She briefed them on, among other things, the results of the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Chile, the coming . changes in the Department of Defense and the steps she's taking to avert a financial crisis in the country.

Despite the fact that she had just atrived from a 14-hour international flight earlier that day, she remained mentally and physically alert Raul I in her more than two hours talk with the



Except for the items she saked to be "off the record," the important aspects of that discussion were written about in the newspaper last week. The staff honored the President's request. The news reports contained only the things she said "on record" or fit (in her opinion) to be published in the newspaper. The columnists who were present that night did the same

The Incomes did not hide that request from its readers. It was mentioned in passing in its reports.

A reader, however, did not feel comfortable with the "off the record* arrangement. He thinks all the information the President divulged to the staff should be shared with the public, and not restricted to the confiner of the editorial office. He said "the right of the people to know" line the media often use to convince government officials to be more forthright on matters of public interest should apply to the newspaper vis-à-vis its renders. Something like, what is sauce for the gander should also be sauce for the goose. Confidentiality

I am not surprised by the interest of the reader in "off the 1 record" statements. This kind of caveat tends to titiliate the unagination (like blind items in gossip columns) and stokes curiosity about the truth of some of the things that have been written about.

But much as the reporters and editors want to "tell all" to the readers, they are constrained by certain rules in the profession that prevent them from doing so. The restraint is akin to the obligation of confidentiality that governs lawyers in regard to information revealed to them in confidence by their clients, or doctors vis-à-vis their patients, or priests for confessions made to them by the faithful.

The lawyer or doctor who violates the vow of silence could lose his license and be held hable for whatever damage his unauthorized disclosure may have caused others; the priest who breaks the seal of the confessional may be de-

News sources often cite confidentiality or possible misinterpretation as reason for requesting that some of their statements be "off the record." An unguarded remark by a highranking government official can, for example, have an adverse effect on stock market trading or the peso-dollar ex-

While it is ideal for a news source to simply keep his mouth shut on sensitive matters, it is sometimes necessary to give "off the record" information to enable the reporter to understand the significance or context of the facts and figures presented to him. In this way, the news report will (we hope) be accurate and carry the message the news source wants to convey to the readers.

Obligation

The Inquirer's Manual of Editorial Policies states that information given "off the record" is for the reporter's knowledge only and cannot be printed or made public in any way.

When a news source imposes a "no publication" rule as a condition for answering questions posed by a reporter, it is up to the latter to decide at the beginning of the interview whether or not to agree to the restriction. If he is not amenable to it, he should speak out right away so the news source can either clam up or exercise caution in giving statements. Silence on the reporter's part is considered acquiescence to the suggested arrangement.

The moment a reporter accedes or does not object to an "off the record" request, he is morally obliged to keep his part of the bargain. It's a word-of-honor commitment the reporter has to live up to for ethical and professional reasons. The absence of witnesses to attest to that promise does not make the obligation of confidentiality less binding.

If the reporter breaks his promise, he may find his access to the news source curtailed, his telephone calls may not even be returned. And that could spell trouble with his editor who wants fresh information, not press releases, in news reports. A reporter without a credible news source in his beat might as well ask for a change of assignment; he will be next to useless to the newspaper.

On top of that, the "unreliable" reporter will earn a reputation in the industry as somebody who cannot be trusted with confidential information-a stigms that is bound to haunt him for the rest of his professional life.

Going back to the "off the record" request of the President, can you imagine what will happen if the editorial staff of the biquium reneged on its commitment not to print the things she said in confidence?

The newspaper's access to the top newsmaker of the land could be adversely affected. If that happens, its ability to promptly report the news would be seriously impaired.

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Maketti City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Scared

"The DOH (Department of Health) will never Implement a population management program, Dayrit is just the alter ego of the President, and the President is scared of the Catholic Church."

-Alagad party-list Rep. Rodunte Moreolata, arging the return of the Contrastion on Papulation to the jurisdiction of the National Someonic and Development Authority

Burdensome pay

"People who are not working for the government will not approve of a hike in government salaries, especially if the increase will be taken out of the proceeds from the new tax measures." -Budget Secretory Entitle Rencedie

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Food and peace

Kris-Crossing MINDANAO



Noralyn Mustafa

and Presidential Adviser Tommy Alcantara. Go figure why we have a weak economy."

"Male chauvinest pig!" I texted back. But seriously, in the face of an inept, corrup-tion-ridden national government that has lost the confidence of its constituency, a respected columnist disclosed that certain leaders of society are multing over specific options to save the Filipino nation from perdition. They are thinking about the possibility of new elections, the formation by consensus of a transition government, and the

drafting of a new Constitution Desperate sinuations call for desperate mea-

In the meantime, we should now fix our lenses and view Mindanao not just as the land of unfulfilled promise, or an excuse to invite inreign funding with impressive development plans; but as the land that may ultimately hold the hope for

This is not going to be achieved by reducing the internal revenue allorment of local governments, thus making the LGUs pay the price of the administration's wasteful spending. While the LGUs in Metro Manila bear with IRA reductions, it would almost be murder to impose IRA reductions on Mindanao's LGUs, especially those in the ARMM provinces, which are among the country's poorest

For whatever their shortcomings and failures, the LGUs in Mindanao and Sulu remain the key to the ultimate solution of the region's greatest problem: peace and order.

in Sulu at least, local government officials, the religious community and the military are united in the quest for peace.

Last Dec. 16, just four days after the brutal

hilling of photojournalist Gene Boyd Lumawag. one in a series of unsolved murders last month, Mayor Hadji Suod Tan led town officials and a cross-section of residents in re-launching the town of Jolo as a zone of peace.

This was done in partnership with the Philippine-Canadian Local Government Support Group (ARMM), the Center for Peace and Development of Western Mindanao State University, and the Reach Out to Others Foundation Inc. Lending invaluable support to the pursuit of peace are the civil society groups. Foremost among them is the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, under Pr. Romeo Villanueva, OMI, which was established by the Oblates to uplift the marginalized in Sulu. This is just in addition to the earlier programs, some of which have been existing for decades.

The provincial government, under the vibrant leadership of newly elected Gov. Benjamin Loong, is actively engaged in pursuing his vision of progress for the province, mainly through agricultural development and marine industries.

A showcase of Governor Loong's success in this effort is his BJ Coco Oil Mill in Indanan which, by the way, has been proposed as a Special Economic Zone. Sulu's chief executive 15 farm tractors from Iran to be loaned out to the province's different municipalities.

Last October, Sulu hosted the 3rd ARMM Business Congress in coordination with the AR-MM Business Council, the Sulu and Tawi-Tawi chapters of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Growth with Equity in Mandanao (GEM) of the USAID, the ARMM Department of Trade and Industry, the Regional Board of Investments and, of course, the Office of the Regional Governor,

Aside from the USAID, other foreign agencies like the Asia Foundation and JICA are helping Suhu get back on its feet after decades of destruction and neglect.

The local government and the people are doing their part. The least the national government can do is to increase its IRA, tenfold if possible.

Comments to rubelyat 19@yahoo.com

Misery loves company

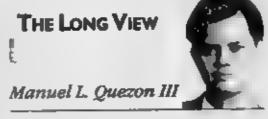
WAS there any significance to Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman's announcing the Presidenr's imposition of a total log ban? On the surface, it seemed happenstance. After all, in times of emergency and disaster, the front-line Cabinet officers are the heads of the social wetfare and defense departments. But it is significant that the Cabinet official foremost in the line of fire has been conspicuous in his silence.

In other countries, in the wake of the disasters—such as that which have befallen Quezon and Aurora and other provinces—anyone holding the equivalent of our Environment and Natural Resources portfolio would have instantly re-

signed, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor will not rengn-not just because the New People's Army is involved in illegal logging, which deprives it and its allied organizations of any moral authority to criticize the government when it comes to logging. Despite lacking the environmental credentials, Defensor le safe because his usefulness in his department is not just political (to pave the way for a Senate bid), but also economic: he is the point man in the big push of the government to revive the moribund mining industry. His role is to lessen the environmental impact of new mining operations, while ensuring that the industry becomes increasingly attractive to investors, and thus, profitable. This is not a cynical reading of Defensor's role in government. It is a realistic one. Only the environment secretary can play the role at present.

It would make sense to divide his department into two-one for the environment; and a separate one for natural resources. But it would run contrary to the gambie taken by the government with respect to the exploitation of our mineral repources. It may be argued that the DENA is in a better position to minimize the environmental impact of a new mining boom, which anyway can be undertaken in ways different from the wantonly

destructive strip-mining methods of the past. With a country so poor and with increasingly



limited options, there is actually the question of whether or not a pact with the devil, so to speak, has to be made. That pact involves looting our mineral resources today to ensure prosperity in the morrow. It is, in fact, a strategy undertaken by the industrialized nations of the West, to great effect. The problem is that the watchdog assigned to ensure this gamble pays off is uself guilty of the hind of wanton looting of the land, which has resulted in repeated massive flooding and destruction because of illegal logging, it's hard to understand the Left's opposition to mining when it is as much to blame for the destruction of our forests.

A veteran labor leader of moderate political inclination once told me that one of his more famous leftist colleagues likes to collect relevision sets. True or not, it indicates a particular weakness of the Left: it's still an integral part of the existing systern and everything that's wrong with that system, Going back to the ferish of the leftist for collecting TV sets, it is nothing compared to the problem facing the radical labor movement: it has yet to go beyand being a protection racket and shakedown syndicate and become a genuine movement for the protection of workers' rights. Labor unions are geniuses at chutting down companies but far from effective when it comes to actually protecting jobs, though moderately more successful in obtaining legislation that sounds good on paper.

At the turn of the last century, 30 percent of London's workers lived below the poverty line. And yet, the period witnessed the rise of the labor movement in Britain, including unions and the Labor Party. There were riots, strikes and pro-

tests, too, but the labor movement succeeded because it had a tremendous reservoir of workers whose aspirations it represented and worked for against the conservative instincts of capital.

in our country, not only does a vast majority live below the poverty line, an enormous number of people don't have jobs, period. It is difficult to agitate against the exploitative schemes of employment—such as contractualization—when, for every person holding down any kind of employment, so many are fined up to take his place. A better system of protecting the workers and their rights can be developed only when more employment opportunities are created.

Because it is fixated on industrialization with socialist characteristics, the Left has failed to make intoads in sectors generating new job opportunities in the country, while forcing business owners to close shop through strikes and agita-

Henry Ford in his time offered the best wages because he realized two things: first, the boredone imposed by routine work on an assembly line kept making people quit their jobs, which affected efficiency since new workers have to be trained; second, well-paid workers not only stayed put, but could then afford to buy the products of his company. Otto von Bismarck created the welfare state as a means of defusing labor unrest while allowing the massive growth of German industry. Britain undertook similar changes, slowly before World War II, and in a big rush when Labor came to power after Hitler's fall, in all these countries, labor began to enjoy a higher standard of living only after a generation or two had been condemned to grinding poverty and misery-enabling the creation of industries and enough wealth to spread around; not to mention the formation of a critical mass of workers large enough for their grievances to become something in the economic interest of capitalists to address. (To be continued)

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PINION

GSIS' selective exemptions

but I was alarmed and distressed to find out that the Government Service Insurance System is deducting five years from my actual service for the alleged failure of the Department of Justice, the agency I was formerly employed with, to remit my premium payments, including the government's share.

Practically all other government employees are in the same predicament. This is so because the GSIS deems insufficient the certifications (attesting to the remittances) of the concerned agencies, unless accompanied by certi-

Doyo's very informative column

I am an architect, temporarily

Legalizing marijuana

cilor Noel de Jesus to suggest the

decriminalization of marijuana.

(PDL, 11/23/04) I have read

about death sentences meted out to manijuana smuggiers who have,

admittedly, broken your laws but

who, it seems, haven't actually

unlikely to hurt but a very tiny

percentage of people. Judge

Young of the United States Drug

Enforcement Agency stated:

Pure marijuana (cannaba) is

based here in Thailand. No, defi-

years back.

hurt anyone.

AIDS awareness campaign

I READ with great interest Ceres am showing so much interest in

about AIDS last Nov. 25. I and dling of our office's entry to the

swered correctly 100 percent of international design competi-

the quiz she incorporated. Credit tion at the National AIDS Memo-

goes to three weeks of research on mal Grove at San Francisco's

the subject matter, which covered Golden Gate Park, USA. Up

some of Doyo's previous columns against the world's best archi-

nitely I'm not HIV positive, Just ness in our country was started by

in case you are wondering why I Doyo's column about Dolzura

HOW brave and honest of Coun- one of the safest therapeutically

have a chance.

tive is cash.

I JUST retired from public service, issued by the GSIS itself. (The offi-longer disputes the documents cial receipt numbers are not enough.) Stated otherwise, it is up the GSIS did not have the to the agencies or employees concerned to prove their remittances. disregarding the time-honored presumption that official duties are regularly performed.

However, GSIS president Winston Garcia made an exception of the Supreme Court justices and emproyees. When Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., a Cebuano like him, publicly expressed his displeasure over the messy records of the GSIS, Garcia quickly held a dialogue with him and thereafter fied copies of the official receipts publicly stated that the GSIS no

it. The reason for this is my han-

tects and designers, I think we

The campaign for AIDS aware-

active substances known to man.

How can people be hanged for

It makes a pleasant change to

read about someone in the Philip-

pines who recognizes the prob-

lems that come with prohibiting

marijuana—not least that it leaves

the supply of the substance in the

hands of crooks whose only mo-

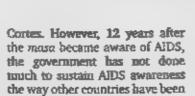
of marijuana possession will not

But just the decriminalization

submitted by the Court because Supreme Court records to begin with. So the GSIS and the Supreme Court records are now 100 percent reconciled.

Worse, even if the required documents are submitted, the posting, together with the updating of pertinent records, still moves at a snail's pace, if it is moving at all. This simple matter of posting remittances is a challenge to Garcia's much vaunted management skills.

-MARIO AR. A. ATTENZA, 114-B Evangelista St., Betangus City



doing with their AIDS posters and

billboards. How I wish we can

have more. Thank you for Doyo's columns. They are earithing to the mind, as

> -LOUISE ALBA, Ionise@plan2711.com

mean that people can possess it but cannot obtain it the user will

be free from prosecution but the supplier will still be in big trouble. The answer has to lie in legalizing its home cultivation and commercial supply through regulated outlets. That would separate manjuana from the hard drugs

and all the misery the latter

-ALUN BUFFRY, P.O. Box 198, Norwich, England, alun@ccguide.org.uk



Compassion for sidewalk vendors

IDO not see how our economy has improved. Every day, I see many young and old Filipinos eating rotten bananas and papayas from a pile of garbage near my suri-suri store. Millions are jobless. Thousands risk their lives for work in the Middle Bast.

People from the provinces, as far as Mindanao, continue to come to Metro Manila to sell on the sidewalks. These small entrepreneurs whose capital comes from loan sharks, are driven away from the sidewalks by the police—their merchandise confiscated-in spite of their daily "levy" of P50 per vendor.

It is the prime duty of any government to give its constituents employment. But not so in our country, and sidewalk vendors here are deprived of their only means of livelihood.

With the country in crisis and Christmas just days away, perhaps the following measures may be adopted to ease the plight of sidewalk vendors:

1. Allow them to sell on the sidewalks but provide sanctions against those found selling on the streets.

2. Order the market masters to issue these vendors tickets so the government can earn additional income to fund badly needed pro-

Let the words of our Lord Jesus Christ inspire and guide us in our dealings with the poorest among the poor. "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren you do it unto

-BENJAMIN C. DE LA FUENTE, 1858 Blumentritt St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

Harper wrong on AFP funds

WE refer to Bambi Harper's Nov. 9 of the Bureau of Treasury. column in which she stated that "No one seems to know exactly the President of its readiness to where the money (referring to the AFP Modernization Fund) went. in a hearing, a senator asked former President Fidel V. Ramos the question to which he huffily replied, "Nandyan lang 'yan (It's (ust there)!"

Agesteriological Company of the Selfabora

APPROXICATION TO SEA W

We wish to clarify that FVR never appeared in any Senate hearing on the AFP Modernization Program, FVR did attend an October 1998 Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing on the Clark Expo project; and in September 2004 on the Smokey Mountain issue. In both appearances, FVR, as former President, went before the Senate against the advice of his lawyer-in order to clarify his decisions and help bring out the truth. In no instance was the matter of the AFP Modemization Fund ever brought up or discussed with any senator.

It seemed that Harper's unnamed source thought rather presumptuously that since he "does not know," no one else would. In Ramos administration; and secthe material facts:

1. The amount of P5.489 billion remitted by the Bases Conversion Development Authority to the National Treasury was placed in a special account earmarked for the program This was reflected in the Treasury Journal

2. The APP advised the Office of manage the trust fund for the AFP --Modernization Program on April 30, 1998, barely two weeks before the elections that year. Prudence dictated that the handling, management and use of the trust fund for the program be left to the incoming administration.

3. During the Estrada adminis-va tration the AFP Modernization in Program was relegated to a low priority in an attempt to reduce, the budget deficit then. This can be gleaned in a letter dated July 21, 1998 to then Defense Secre⁵⁷³ tary Orlando Mercado from for- 6 mer Budget Secretary Benjamin 1

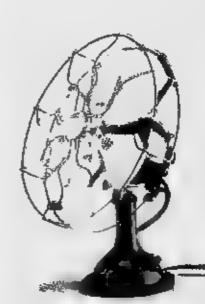
4. On May 29, 2000, the Decas partment of Budget and Management issued a Special Allotment, st Release Order (Saro) to the AFP for P5.4 billion. The issuance of ad the Saro indicated two things: th Firstly, that the AFP Moderniza-vg tion Fund was available and re-rol mained intact by the end of thera any case, please allow us to restate ondly, that the Estrada administration exercised control and d management over the same fund....

-FRUMENCIO A. LAGUSTAN, b spokesperson of . . former President Fidel V. Ramos, ac 120 María Cristma St., Ayala Alabang Village, **Muntiplupa City**

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'Millionaire' exec axed from co-op

By Ansbert Joaquin PDI Central Luxon Desk

CASTILLEJOS, Zambales—The National Electric Administration removed from office the president of the Zambales Electric Cooperative II after he was found to have spent P74,333 a month for four years in mobile phone bills alone and P533,649.84 in plane tickets by traveling 265 days in a year.

loss reduction project to his dumту сотраву.

Also removed were all members of the cooperative's board of directors who received a total of P3.6 million in benefits, allowances and bonuses, which the NEA found to be illegal.

All the officers of the Zameco II, from president down to the board members who were found overstaying in office, were also disqualified from running for any elective post in any future district elections of the cooperative.

NEA supervises power cooperatives. In some cases, board directors of power cooperatives decide but NEA intervenes in cases involving money loaned to cooperatives.

The case against the Zameco II officials stemmed from a complaint filed by the Castillejos Consumers Association Inc., headed by Domi-

nador Gallardo, en New 18, 2002. Gallardo is the father of Clare-

He was also found to have tian nussionary priest, Fr Rhoel awarded a P20-million systems Gallardo, who was killed by Musilm rebels in Basilan on May 3, 2000, after government soldiers clashed with Mushm separatists

> holding 27 hostages. The complaint was based on the June 25, 1998 findings of the management and the financial audit of Zameco II, which was later supported by the July 24, 2003 audit conducted by the NEA.

Named respondents in the complaint were Jose Dominguez, president; Isaias Vindua, vice president; Vicente Barretto, secretary; Jose Santiago, treasurer, and Jose Naserry Dolojan, Juan Pernandez and Honorio Dilag Jr., board members.

But Dominguez denied all altegations against him and the other

The June 25, 1998 audit Dominguez showed that the Zameco II board of directors illegally collected 13th month pay, anniversary bonus, mid-year/yearend bonus-

es, medical/clothing allowances, prompt payment discount honus and separation pays from January 1989 to September 1997 amounting to P3.6 million.

The NEA claimed in its resolution that "notwithstanding the disallowance in audit and charging the disallowed amount as receivable from each director, as recommended in the 1998 audit, the Board of Zameco II continuously collected the

same benefits without legal basis."

The July 24, 2003 NEA audit report, on other hand, showed that Zameco Il had receivables amounting to P23.5 million from the Cen-Luzon Power Transmission Development Corp. (CLPT-DC) and Zambales Power Corp., which, the report said, were duramy corporations of Dominguez.

The same report alshowed that reimbursed P14.5 milion covering, among oth-P533,649.84 meal expenses worth P140,659.62 a month; vitamins and other medicines amounting to P10,000 a week; purchase of computers and cell phone units amounting to P200,000, and prepaid mobile phone cards amounting to P3.5 million. The report said Dominguez had a cell phone covered with a plan paid by the cooperative.

The report also revealed that the cooperative, upon request of

Dominguez, paid P225,000 in investments in favor of CLPIDC, which, the NEA audit found out, was no longer operating.

Dominguez's expenses for meetings with the National Power Corp., Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, NEA and CLPTDC ranged from P30,000 to P130,000 a week, the report said.

Two drivers, both assigned to Dominguez, also incurred ex-

penses totaling P4.7 million in 13 three years.

"With his practice of lavish spending, Dominguez did not 9 protect the interest of the cooperative and the member-con-

sumers," the NEA resolution said. [" On the issue of their overstaying in as Zameco II officers, Dominguez in claimed that their continued tenure was authorized by then NEA Ad-A ministrator Rodrigo Cabrera.





Tight security imposed in premier ARMM port

POLLOC Port, Maguindanao—The premier port of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) will impose tight security policy, following the opening here Friday of an "antherrorcompliant" terminal facility officials said.

Lawyer Aidin Hayudini, ARMM Regional Cabinet Secretary, said the 560-seater new terminal was designed on standards set under the International Safety for Ship Passengers (ISSP) in connection with the global fight against terrorism.

The seaport that has incurred losses in recent years, received an aid package from the World Bank to attract shipping firms with upgraded services and facilities, said Engr. Mur-

shid Tuttuh, regional port manager.

Dr. Endatun Talusan, Polloc Port managez, said the public had to bear with the policies that would include what he described as "dehumanizing security measures," even though the management wanted to deputize "the friendliest of Army and police personnel" into the port's security force.

For instance, Talusan said, security personnel would drive away well-wishers from the gate. "We don't want to see loitering anyone around the port premises," he said.

Security personnel will also be strict in frisking and checking on baggages of passengers, Talusan added.

The P 20.7 million "antiterror-compliant" passengers' terminal is part of the \$35,000 WB loan, through loan, through which the national government is aiding the ARMM Social Fund Project (ASFP), according to Engr. Bernouli Manibpel, ASFP representative.

Although designed with international harbor standards, the 28year-old Polloc Port has remained "underutilized" with declining cargo volume traffic from 72,000 metric tous (MT) to 42,000 MT five years ago, and currently at 20,000 MT, Talusan noted.

Then Highways Minister Jaime Canlas and Autonomous Government Chair Simeon Daturnanong had the seaport built in 1976 in international shipping draft standards, and it has since not undergone major rehabilitation.

Only three firms—Lorenzo Shipping, Sulpicio and Aboitiz shipping lines—are using the port. All are imposing added handling costs for

trucking and storage rates, which causes corresponding increases on prices of goods in Maguindanao province and the nearby Cotabato City.

Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureme



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PDI Visayas Bureau

By Jolene R. Bulambot

CEBU CITY-More than 500 people yesterday came to bid their final. farewell to slain photojournalist Allan Dizon and all ened for justice.

During the funeral procession, many family members, fellow journalists and friends were seen carrying placards that read: "Long Live Press Freedom," Justice for Allan Dizon" and "Don't Kill Journalists."

Instead of a traditional hearse, a calesa (horse-drawn cart) was used in the funeral procession because the family wanted the Cebuanos to view his casket and join in their demand for justice.

"We are appealing for justice. More than a week has passed and we have nothing concrete yet. We paraded his body in the hope that the killer's conscience would be muched," said Nympha, Dizon's estranged wife.

The couple has been separated since 2000. They have three children-Charmie Ann, 10; Lenny Chan, 8 and Vanessa Mae, 6.

The funeral procession started from San Fernando Funeral Homes on Natalio Bacalso Street. His remains were first brought to his old home in Barangay Lorega before bringing him to the Blessed Sacrament in Barangay Mabolo for the requiem Mass.

He was finally laid to rest at about 2 p.m. at the Queen City Memorial Garden, Cebu's first memorial park located at the north reclamation area here.

Dizon, 30, a photographer of the Freeman Newspaper, was shot three times by a lone assailant on the street just outside SM City at 6:59 p.m. of Nov. 27. He died one-

and-a-half hours later at the Cebu City Medical Center

He was the 12th journalist killed this year and the 61st since 1986, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philip-

Nympha said that shortly after the killing, her brother called her up in Malaysia where she was working and informed her about it.

"I never knew he had enemies. He was a very nice and friendly person. He was very generous because. he gave a lot, he always wanted to help people, Even if we separated, I still loved him," she said.

Amelina Ruben, 30, Dizon's partner for four years, also urged authorities to expedite the investigation and arrest the suspect. Ruben has a 3-year-old daughter with Dizon.

Joy Turnulak, president of the Cebu Federation of Beat Journalists. reiterated their plea to authorities to immediately solve the killing.

We call on the authorities to solve the murder case. Give justice to Allan's death," he stressed.

Mayor Tomas Osmeña earlier told reporters that a video carrera syndicate had a hand in Dizon's killing.

A policeman is facing investigation after he was found to have sent text messages to Dizon, hours be-

fore the photojournalist was killed. Supt. Paul Labra, Cebu City Pobce Office-Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Bureau chief, however, said PO2 Brazilio Borina-

ga was not considered a suspect. Borinaga said he did send text messages to Dizon to tell him to meet him the following day to discuss some information relayed by Dizon. With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE HONORABLE MENIBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE SENATE

We are concerned that in the desire to demonstrate quick action on the fiscal crisis, the government is pushing for the legislation of revenue measures in the shortest time possible while giving less importance to the quality of their content. We applaud its quest for speed. But we are dismayed that the government has exhibited almost too willing an acceptance to compromise and give in to the demands of powerful groups.

Indeed, the fiscal crisis is serious, and we fully concur with the government's sense of urgency of the need for quick and decisive action. However, government must not miss this opportunity to correct serious weaknesses of the tax system made endemic through inefficiencies in legislation, administration, and compliance. To achieve both objectives, what is needed therefore, is not a blind compromise, but strong political will and decisive leadership to push the correct measures in the record speed required.

The first test of government's resolve to act not only quickly but also intelligently and judiciously in addressing the fiscal crisis is the proposed legislation for the indexation of sin taxes. After the House had passed a weak and compromiseridden version of the bill, the current challenge of the Senate is to craft a bill that would free the excise tax system from the distortions and administrative complications that have made the tax system not only unproductive but also unjust. Fortunately, the relevant Issues and the specific measures that can adequately address these inefficiencies are provided in Senate Bill No. 1815 authored by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

-We therefore call on the distinguished and enlightened members of the Senate to support. the Enrile version of the sin tax bill and demonstrate once again that the Senate is a bastion of wisdom and good sense that can be bastion of wisdom and good sense that can be relied on to produce the right laws and good policies for the nation.

We would like to make the following observations:

1. The Philippines has a 5-tier tax rate system for cigarettes, which is perhaps the most complicated in the world. The large difference between the tax rate of medium-priced and lowpriced cigarettes (P4.48 per pack) effectively tempts evasion and corruption. There is a large incentive for a manufacturer to mis-declare cigarettes as low-priced, and this defrauds government of billions of revenues.

The Enrile bill simplifies the digarette excise tax system through variable increases in the tax rates for different cigarette classes, leading to a convergence into a single tax rate of P13.50 within a six-year period.

2. The Philippines has one of the lowest excise tax rates on cigarettes in the region, if not in the world. The average tax rate is P4.48 per pack. Compare this with Malaysia- P15.68; Taiwan-P19.60; Korea-P24.64; Japan-P81.20; and Singapore- P193.20.

The US excise tax system consists of a Federal and a state excise tax. Counties and cities may impose additional taxes. The state tax per pack reaches a high of US\$ 2.05 (P114.80) in New Jersey. Most states allocate a portion of the excise tax to support public health relating to cancer.

It has been proven that cigarettes cause cancer. WHO estimates that lung cancer and other tobacco-related diseases kill 20,000 Filipinos yearty and leave the government and citizens poorer by about P46 billion in economic and medical costs annually.

The Enrile bill increases the tax rates on cigarettes in an effort to deter the consumption of a vice. Revenues from increased tax rates can help the government provide for the treatment of tobacco-induced diseases. Passive smokers especially deserve to be protected from the negative externalities of smoking. The bill allocates part of the incremental revenues to help modernize hospital facilities and care throughout the country.

3. The excise tax bill in 1996 was legislated without the indexation of tax rates relative to inflation. As a result, increases in prices of beef, liquor, and cigarettes have only benefited their manufacturers. The revenue collection from these products fell from 2.6 percent of GDP in 1997 to 1.31 percent in 2003 with government and taxpayers ending up as losers.

The Enrile bill provides for the indexation or the adjustment of tax rates relative to inflation in 2013. It allows the tax rates to keep pace with average changes in prices.

4. Government was deprived of significant revenues in 1997 and 2000 through the practice of production loading. Manufacturers increase cigarette production and inventory prior to a tax increase to avoid payment of a higher tax rate.

The Enrile bill introduces a provision that prevents production loading. Moreover, it mandates the implementation of monthly inventory information and a system for tamper proof stamps on cigarette packs as proof of payment by a company.

5. The provision that requires the government to keep the 1996 classification of cigarettes until Congress revises it has deprived government of additional revenues. Low-priced cigarettes remain subject to low tax rate regardless of whether their prices have increased.

The Enrile bill avoids the confrontation that may result from the reclassification of cigarettes since this issue will become irrelevant when tax rates converge into a single rate. Thus, the additional revenues resulting from his bill is P11.32 billion (compared to P18.2 billion if it allows for reclassification). This amount is still significantly higher than the additional revenues from the House bill and that which has been adopted by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, which is roughly P4.0 billion.2

The main criticism against the Enrile bill is that it : will increase the tax burden on low-priced agarettes by 436 percent, from P1.12 to P6.00 per pack in 2005.

But put in better perspective, this tax increase translates to only 25 centavos per stick (a larger increase in the high/premium-priced digarettes can be imposed). This increase is certainly low on a socially undesirable product. And if the poor smoker reduces his cigarette consumption because of this, aren't he and his family being better off?

Indeed, the same cigarette, whether low-orhigh-priced causes cancer, as Indisputably proven by various studies. Thus, while the government may yow to protect the poor byweet imposing a lower tax on low-priced cigarettes, the perverse effect is that it encourages and propagates cancer among the poor. It is indeed an insidious practice to induce sickness among those who can least afford the cost of health care. .

The Enrile bill provides for provisions that will simplify the excise tax structure and promote its efficient administration and compliance. Moreover, it aims to correct the negative externalities from smoking.

We are hopeful that the Honorable Members of the Senate and the House will adopt its provisions and legislate an excise tax bill that will demonstrate the leadership and responsibility that the fiscal crisis requires.

Viewed against the backdrop of present circumstances, the final form of the sin taxes bill will define either what we have become or what we should be - a people that has lost its sense of direction or one that has decided where it should go.

Former Finance Secretary

ERNEST C. LEUNG

Former Acting Finance Secretary

SÚS P. ESTANISLAO Former Finance Secretary

Former NEDA Secretary

and the

Alliance for Enlightened Policies

Federation of Philippine Industries

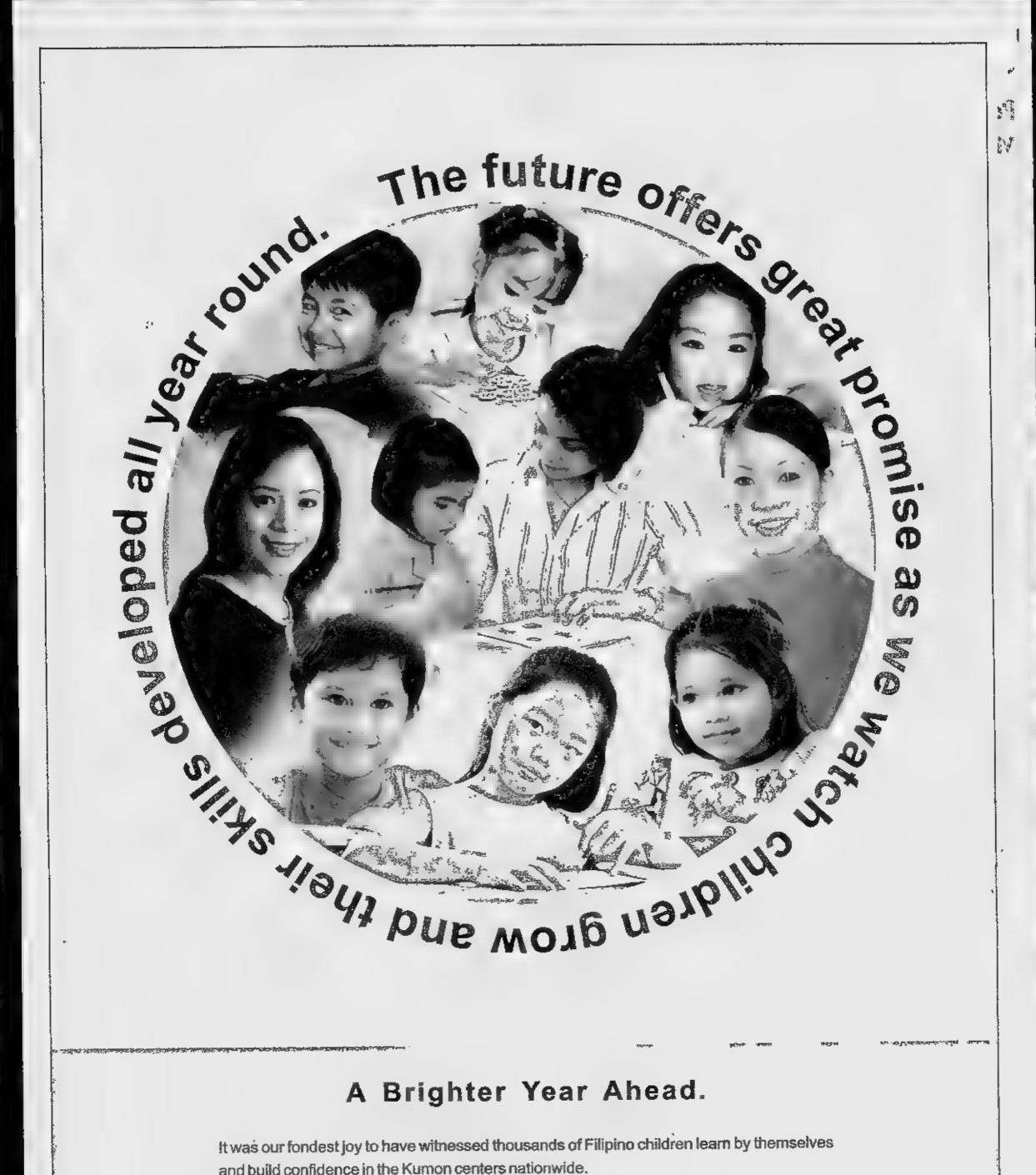
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¹ The composite weighted average from the four digerette tax rates

² Great caution is advised on appreciating the revenue impact. The numbers should be comparable. Are revenues quoted in terms of total or additional? Are revenues from olganette products alone or from beer, itquor and olganettes?



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Peru bet Miss World

From page A1

Her win came as something of a surprise as she was not one of the five finalists who won various competitions in the past weeks.

The contest, held in this resort town on the tropical island province of Haman, saw 107 contestants flaunt their looks to impress millions of television viewers worldwide who picked the winner via telephone, SMS text messages and Internet voting, in previous Miss World pageants, the winner was chosen by a panel

The fact that I am the first Miss World to be decided by a global vote makes this award unbelievably precious," said Mantilla Garcia, who was crowned late Saturday by last year's winner, Miss Ireland Rosanna Davison, daughter of "Lady in Red" pop crooner Chris de Burgh.

Mannilla Garcia was born in Truillio on the north coast of Peru. She is studying to become a high school reacher, but said she was also considering a career in tourism.

Wearing a low-cut peacock blue evening dress, the brunette said she wanted to be involved in charity work and to learn more English in the year ahead.

"Sorry I can't speak much English ... I need to learn more," she said.

As part of her contract with Miss World, she will assume a busy travel schedule to he.p raise funds for charitable organiza-

China officially lifted a 54-year ban on beauty contests last year and hosted Mass World in Sanya for the first time.

Beauty contests are regarded as a novelty in China, which had lived for decades under the iron grip of communist ideology. Many Chinese people now view these pageants as colorful symbols of progress and openness, in contrast with the West where they have long been ridiculed and attacked as degrading.

9 big loggers identified

country amid the disaster that struck the Sierra Madre mountain range, where Aurora and parts of Quezon lie.

"The logging activities of these legitimate companies are the main reason the mountains are bald," Estriber sald in Filipino.

Government was deaf to our appeals for a large-scale corporate log ban since 1991," he said.

A mere joke

A staunch supporter of Ms Arroyo himself appeared unimpressed by her declaration of an all-out war against illegal loggers.

At yesterday's briefing of the National Disaster Coordinating Council at Camp Aguinaldo, Sen. Richard Gordon described as a joke the President's tough talk on

"Bola 'yan" (That's a joke)," Gordon said at the meeting attended by United States Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and his delegation that included a representative of the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, as well as Defense Secretary Avelano the five firms got their permits: Cruz Jr., Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and presidential adviser Cito Lorenzo.

Gordon called for "radical positive measures" to ensure reforestation in the aftermath of the disaster. He reiterated his suggestion to mobilize students and even prisoners in the effort.

Sought for comment later, the senator seemed to backpedal, explaining that his criticism was not directed at the President or any

"I'm just using that euphemistically," he said. "It's a common reaction by Filipinos to say, 'Oh, we'll go after illegal loggers the same way we'll go after smugglers.' But unless we really work together as a people, we're not gonna be able to do that."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President wanted the ban on logging to take effect as soon as possible. He said on RMN radio that "we need the help of every- Secretary

ban).

He said the ban was "timely and appropriate" because those who held the permits had been fast and loose in cutting down

Any investigation into the root cause of the tragedy should include a scrutiny of the five biggest logging concessionaires in Aurora and Quezon that were granted permits by the Arroyo administration, according to a militant

Pamalakaya said the Office of the President and the DENR approved the logging operations of International Hardwood and Veneer Corp., Timberland Forest Products, Industries Development Corp., RCC Timber Co. and Top Lite Corp.

The government granted permits and concessions to these "logging giants" in the form of Ifmas between January 2001 and November 2002, Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said in a

The group said this was how

• In January 2001, the government allowed International Hardwood and Veneer Corp. to operate on 13,527 hectares of forest in Mauban, Quezon.

 On Nov. 12, 2002, the national government through the DENR approved the logging operation of Timberland Forest Products, covering 34,660 ha in General Nakac

• On Dec. 5, 2001, the President also approved the operations of Industries Development Corp. and RCC Timber Co. in Aurora through the Ifma. The two companies were allowed 48,877 ha and 23,140 ha, respectively.

On July 9, 2002,

the DENR approved the logging permit of Top Lite Corp., also in Aurora, which covered 8,630 ha "While former Environment

quite some time, new Environment Secretary Michael Defensor overturned the decision and lifted the suspension two weeks ago," the group said.

Prosecute firms, politicians

Estriber said the President should also order the prosecution of corporations, politicians and officials and personnel of the DENR responsible for destroying the Sierra Madre forests.

Companies "patronized" the il-legal loggers who were actually their sources of wood, Estriber

Most "carabao loggers," those who use carabaos to haul timber, are controlled by politicians who finance the operations, according to the MSAG secretary.

Estriber noted that last year, a light cargo vessel loaded with timber owned by a politician sank off Dilasag town in northern Aurora. Another politician, he said, was caught several times transporting illegally cut timber. Estriber, however, did not name the officials.

"We're challenging the authorities to make a stand for the future of the next generations, if the government is unable to stop logging, perhaps its enemy, the New People's Army, can," Estriber

The President earlier blamed the NPA for the flooding and landslides, saying that military reports showed that the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines had asked for protection money from loggers.

in Isabela, Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, president of World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines, described as "a political band aid"

SEIKO

pend all logging operations in the

The best solution here is implementation of the existing environment laws judicially and equally for the people. [This will be effective if) coupled with good

body to fully implement it (the Gozun suspended the permit for the government's move to sus- governance," Tan told the inquireen in a telephone interview. Reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Christian K Esguerra, Volt Contreras and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila



SC acts as economic catalyst

administration in 2001 as a result of Edsa IL

Since January 2001, the court has stood as the pillar of legitimacy of the first Arroyo administration, reinforcing it with three decisions that established the legal basis of its installation as successor government to a democratically elected regime that collapsed under the extralegal pressure of "people power" and military defection

Pollowing the presidential election in May, whose results are still being challenged before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, the court's decision on Wednesday, upholding the constitutionality of the 1995 Mining Act, marks a turn away from a highly politicized role.

It comes as a timely shift of attention to the economy as the country settles down to relative poblical stability after the election and as it refocuses its priorities on the crippling fiscal

Leaving aside the economic impact for further examination, the sovereignty aspects of the decision with regard to control of the national patrimony require immediate elucida-

The decision, penned by Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban, overturned the court's January 2004 ruling that the 1995 Mining Act and the Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) signed by the government with an Australian mining company were unconstitutional.

It clarified an important issue concerning sovereignty over the natural re-SOUTCES

The Dec. 2 decision said the 1995 FTAA did not contravene the 1987 Constitution because it expressly allowed service contracts in "large-scale expioration, development and utilization of minerals, petroleum and miner-

It made it clear that the FTAA did not surrender national sovereignty over natural resources to foreign mining companies.

"All mineral resources are owned by the State. Their exploration, development and utilization (EDU) must always be subject to the full control and supervision of the State* (through the executive and legislative departments), it said.

Inadequacy of capital

It added: "More specifically, given the madequacy of Filipino capital and technology in large-scale EDU activities, the State may secure the help of foreign companies ... provided that, at all times, the State maintains its rights of full control.'

Here, "control" of resources is the key

word.

The decision took pains to point out that the text of the Constitution and the drafting history of the Constitution do not ban service contracts. It concludes that the FTAA did not relinquish state control over operations of the

foreign mining firms to the companies. In throwing open the mining sector to for-

eign companies and the entry of large-scale capital, the court sought to strike a balance berween economic development and parochial concerns. "The Constitution should be read in broad life-giving strokes," the deci-

"Rather, it should be construed to grant the President and Congress sufficient discretion and reasonable leeway to enable them to attract foreign investments and expertise, as well as to secure our people and our posterity the blessings of prosperity and peace."

This passage gives the decision a larger economic framework

Narrow interests

By naming "narrow interests," the court referred to and addressed the environmental concerns of groups which could be affected by mining operations.

It said: "Verily, the mineral wealth and natural resources of this country are meant to benefit not merely a select group of people living in the areas locally affected by mining activities, but the entire Filipino nation, present and future to whom the mineral wealth really belongs. This court has therefore weighed carefully the rights and interests of all concerned and decided for the greater good of the greatest number."

The court served notice that it was not standing in the way of economic development through restrictive interpretation of the nationalist provisions of the Constitution.

While it made clear that the Constitution gave the President a mandate to enter into FTAAs with whofly owned foreign companies and that Congress had the right to review such contracts, the ruling said the Constitution was silent on the role of the court.

However, the decision said, "Clearly then, the judiciary should or inordinately interfere in the exercise of the presidential power of control over the exploration, development and utilization of our natural resources."

Propensity to issue TROs

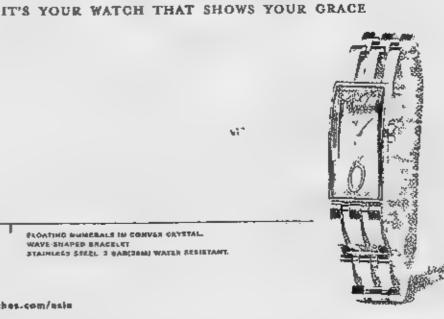
In redefining its own role in facilitating economic development, it was not lost on the court that it, as well as the lower courts, had come under criticism from the business sector and the foreign business community for their propensity to Issue TROs (temporary restraining orders) on controversial business contracts being questioned by losing bidders.

Judicial intervention la contracts, especially those involving big-ticket infrastructure projects, has been blamed by the business community as partly responsible for the uncertainty in doing business in the country, together with political instability.

Based on the reaction so far from the business sector, the court's decision has the immedlare impact of introducing a more business friendly judicial environment attuned to the needs of economic development.



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in three evacuation centers, it was an altogether different story.

There, in Dingalan town, the evacuees were grateful for the rehef packages containing rice, canned goods, noodles, sugar and coffee, blankets and used

But please, they said, can you add underwear?

"They need panties," Councilor Shiela Tuny told the Incomusa. "They were just too ashamed to ask but ... they badly need those."

The males, too, desperately needed underwear, she said.

But whether in Quezon, Aurora or the Bicol provinces, the common plea among simple residents who survived the disastrous storms was for food.

Hunger stalks them

"We will die of hunger there," said Bernardo Bautista, 33, who had to abandon an evacuation center in Infanta due to lack of

Bautista, his wife and three emidren had to walk barefoot for about three hours through mud and over dead bodies to reach nearby Real-only to find there was not much to eat in evacuation camps there, too.

Hugging two of his children, including one aged 4. Bautista pleaded with members of the Air Force search and rescue team to

take them to Manila. We have no food here, no clothes, no home to return to, please take us out of here," he said, adding they would be better off in his mother's home in

Pairview, Quezon City.

His wife Pelicula, apparently in a state of shock, shivered as she cuddled 3-year-old Bernardo Jr.

A different tragedy

The Bautistas eventually reached Villamor Air Base at about 3 a.m., along with wounded and sick people, pregnant women and the elderly who were airlifted by the PAF's 505th Search and Rescue

In Mercedes, Camarines Norte, the story was that of Gracia de la Cruz, a pregnant mother who lost two children in a space of a few

First, she lost 4-year-old Christien, who succumbed to bronchopneumonia and gastroenteri-

Arned the storms, De la Cruz brought her dying son to the Camannes Norte Provincial Hospital. While there, she began suffering abdominal pains.

"A doctor checked me up and told me I'd be having the baby in five days yet," she said. "After I was checked, I went to the toilet to try to relieve myself because my abdomen was too painful. When I looked, I saw the head of

She lost that one, too.

Grumbling stomachs

"We buried the 85 bodies in one single grave," Real social worker Norm Sollestre said "Some of these were identified but others were not. We just took individual photos of the bodies before they were laid down in the deep grave," she Figuring out casualty toll

AS PAR as can be known, more than 1,300 people were either dead or missing in the wake of four successive tropical cyclones which swept across Luzion. But the total casualty toll may not be known, Army rescue chief Col. Jaume Buenafior said.

As of noon yesterday, the provisional casualty toll stood at 628 dead, 718 musting and 579 injured, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said.

"It's really difficult to get exact figures. Some people were swept out to the sea," Buenaflor said on television. "We're coming up only with estimates and our estimates are very rough."

"I think the overall casualty toll will be much higher ... One building in Real collapsed and residents said they saw almost 100 people trapped. In Infanta, many are still unaccounted for."

Nearly 200 people died in Real

In Infanta, Mayor Grace Amer-

tea tried to provide her people

with whatever relief goods she

But with throngs gathered in

the covered basketball court, now

carpeted with four-on thick mud,

she knew she could not find

enough food to pacify the gruss-

blings of thousands of hungry

"I pity my people. They are all

hungry, sick and emotionally dev-

could lay her hands on.

astated." America said.

while at least 144 were still masing.

Here is a breakdown of casualties per storm, based on figures released by Soliman:

 "Unding"—65 dead, 160 injured, 69 missing.

 "Violeta"—26 dead, 14 injured, 4 missing. • "Winnie"---500 dead, 373

injured, 607 missing • "Yoyong"-37 dead, 32

injured, 38 missing. Souman said mass burials had become "common" in devastated towns in Quezon.

"We can no longer cope with requests for body bags," she said, adding that people had been allowed to "bury the dead anywhere they can dig."

Come summer, their bones will be exhumed so they can be given proper burials to cemeteries, Soliman said.

Some of those buried in mass graves were unidenti-Volt Contreras

She said the P1 million that Macapagai-Arroyo President gave for calamity victims could barely last a couple of days.

Memeritos of the dead

While she talked to the Inquitex, an old woman handed America two rings which had been removed from the unidentified bodies of two women found in a coastal village.

America dropped the rings into a wooden box containing other personal belongings of the dead.

She said she had ordered the

mass burial of 69 bodies in her rification tablets town. "Some were identified, others were just noted based on the markings in the bodies," she said. "I had to order the mass burial in order to prevent the spread of disease."

The bodies were placed in apartment-type vaults.

"We put several bodies in each vault, whatever could be contained in each hole," she said. Reports of the discovery of

US envoy sees suffering

more bodies kept coming.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone toured the disaster areas to assess what kind of assistance his country could provide

"The destruction ... was really much worse than I thought even from newspaper reporting. It's great to see people pulling together," said Ricciardone in Baler town.

Many families in Mercedes, Camarines Norte, were left without homes or even safe water to drunk.

One such family was that of 17-year-old Jeanette Perdigon, whose 3-month-old son Gerald is suffering from severe dehydration. They were among hundreds staying at a schoolhouse.

The child is so severely dehydrated that he is in grave danger of dying," said Dale Russein of the United Nations Children's Pund. "I don't think the mother can get safe drinking water for his milk formula from the evacuation center."

No more rivers

Unicef sent a relief mission to Camarines Norte, bringing more than P100,000 worth of canned goods, annihories and water pu-

Officials said the landslides that hit Dingalan virtually without warning on Nov. 23 gave residents no time to pack their belongings. About 7,000 families are now sheltered at the town's elementary and high school buildings and at the municipal hall.

"Some have only a piece of underwear," Councilor Tany said. "Others have a few borrowed ones from relatives."

Medicines were also badly needed because evacuees were starting to suffer from fever, diarrhea and coughs. Drugstores, were either closed or had run our of stocks.

Between 40 and 60 people's were packed into each room measuring 8 by 10 meters.

On Saturday, tension rose over the alleged refusal of a municipal health officer to hand out drugg for fever and diarrhea to a mother whose child was nick.

"This woman came all the way from Barangay Dikapanikian, She braved the rough sea to reach the poblacion only to be turned away." Tany said "I told the doc; for the mother could be instructed on the amount of dosage she could give her child. [The doctor] refused. He wanted to diagnose the child first. The woman left crying."

She said potable water had become a rare commodity in the

The town's streams and the-Mahogany waterfalls, where restdents usually got their water supply, were gone, covered by debris from the mountain. With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and

International relief pours in for typhoon victims

From page Al

aging more than P3 billion worth of crops and infrastructure, and causing misery to a million oth-

As renef and other forms of assistance began pouring in, Social Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman appealed for more help

"The appeal we're now making in rehabilitation," Soliman and. "That really means rebuild ing water systems, toilets, livelihood in agriculture for people whose farmlands were buried in

The United States, Japan, the European Union and the International Red Cross were among the first to respond with financial help, transport and relief goods. The United Nations offered its help, too

A team from the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (Undae) was scheduled to arrive in Manila to address the short, medium and long-term requirements of recovery and rehabilitation of the affected areas, said Ambassador Lauro Baja Jr., the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

The team will also act as a channel for contributions from the international donor community, Baja added.

Sagip Buhay

Operation Sagip Buhay, a humaniturian effort launched by multi-sectoral groups that in-

clude the Inquieza, had raised as than I had imagined," Ricciarof yesterday up to P29 million worth of relief goods for the thousands victimized by the recent typhoons, according to Soliman

The US government has deplayed American forces in several ravaged areas to extend humanitarian assistance and relief to residents dislocated by flash floods and landshdes.

Concern for lives

"US forces are moving rapidly to provide the needs and services requested by the government of Philippines," empsssy spokesperson Karen Kelley said, stressing that they would remain on the ground as long as neces-

On top of this, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the US Agency for International Development has allocated another \$100,000 to the Philippine National Red Cross to address the "immediate and urgent needs" of the victims.

The OFDA will also send 500 body bags worth \$13,000 and 80 rolls of shelter material, estimated at \$20,000, which could shelter 800 families, she said

Ricciardone appalled

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone flew by helicopter to hardest-hit Quezon province to assess the damage and other needs of the residents.

"The devastation was worse

done said. "It was quite distressing, logs everywhere, mud everywhere, roads were cut off in many places and bridges were

A 14-man team from the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force stationed in Okinawa, Japan, also took off aboard a helicopter from the US Embassy grounds to conduct its own assessment in some areas in Luzon, according to Kel-

Some US specialists now in the country for joint American-Filipino military exercises have been ordered to extend their stay so they could take part in relief operations, Kelley said

Japan was sending a team of medical doctors as well as representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan International Cooperation Agency to assess the other needs of the typhoon victims.

Earlier, Japonese Ambassador Ryujchiro Yamazaki płedged separately to donate P15 million worth of relief and other materiais to the Philippines.

UN experts

The United Nations has deployed a team of experts to assist the Philippine government in assessing the extent of the damage and in coordinating the international response to the disaster, Baja said in a statement

Baja said the Philippine mis-

sion had been informed that the needed in the evacuation centers. UN country team in Manila was helping the government in resource mobilization and would also assist in the distribution of relief supplies.

Echo, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department, has allocated some 1 million euros in assistance to the typhoon victims, the European Commission said.

"In situations like this, it is our duty to respond immediately. But where many affected areas are inaccessible, it can take some time for a clear picture to emerge," said Louis Michel, the commisgioner responsible for the development and humanitarian aid.

"We want to use our relief funds as effectively as possible which is why we have sent an expert to the area immediate-

Sagip Buhay's operation has resulted in a flood of matches, instant noodles, hard boiled eggs. shirts, body bags and even power generators in the group's drop-off and repacking center at Warehouse 9 in Camp Aguinaldo.

Major benefactor

But in an Inquirer interview, Soliman aired a specific appeal for donors to also send over more pediatric medicines, especially for cough, colds and fever, diapers, and orisol (anti-diarrhea solution), saying these items, as well as food, were now critically

In an inventory of Sagip Buhay donations obtained by the INCOM-

Ex, the Japan International Cooperation Agency emerged as the single biggest benefactor Among the major corporate donors were Asia Brewery and the Lucio Tan Group of Compa-

Philippines, Nestlé ABS-CBN, the Aboutiz group, Jaka Equipment Corp., Development Bank of the Philippines, International Container Termina. Services Inc. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office

From civic groups, the donors included the Zonta Club, University of the Philippines Student Catholic Action; members of the Philippine Air Force, AFP Officers' Ladies Club, and the Presidential Security Group Ladies Club; and the Regata West Subdivision Homeowners Association.

Individual contributors, like Arlene Keh, sent over nonfood items, such as beddings, towers, toiletnes and assorted clothes, while Martin Galvez threw in raincoats, candles and roys.

Corporate donors

Sagip Suhay partner organizations include the Inquirer, the Ayala Foundation, the Pederation of Pilipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Smart, the Prelate of Infanta in Quezon, Unilab, Hands On Manila, the Assisi Foundation and the Corporate

Network for Disaster Response. The Sagip Buhay Manila-based

operation can be reached through Fr Francis Lucas, tel. no. (0918) 927-5813, or Sanny Jegilios (0918) 919-1736. Nothing is definite yet as to the

resumption of classes, but Unicef is preparing "school packs" for the children to replace their lost notebooks, bags and other school supplies, Soliman reported We would like to help in reha

bilitation. We want to help in providing construction materials, the nails and GI (galvanized from) sheets, because they have wood to work with," said Tess Usapdin, PNRC communications di-

Since the PNRC called for internations, aid last week before Typhoon Yoyong hit the country, . it has received some P30 million in foreign assistance that came in cash and relief goods, Usapdin

Apart from the aid it had received from Spain, the Internations. Federation of the Red Cross and local companies, the PNRC also received around P4.4 million from its Malaysian counterpart, the Malaysian Red Crescent, and a pledge of P8.7 million from the Australian Embassy.

The PNRC had said it would need between PS6 million and P100 million to help affected fattuses in Central and Southern Luzon. and the Bicol region. With a report from Tarra V. Quismundo

Forest rangers rarer than Philippine eagles



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WEDNESDAY & PM. Whyter will be identified during the IngTV program: Thursday, 10:00pm, on ABC. Salot ng illegal logging, bakit hindi masugpo?

ng ikut sa mga augst retyt. Thai nei pera pera at pera ang chien lang bist d wangpo ersy Regel logging"

Hido Hipolito, Davis City

'di matiticii ang salot na ito. Itual ealet tayo sa ishal ng pangangatlangtvil" Tale de Guzmen, Ste. Cruz

there are more Phi' opine eagles than forest guards," said Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukıdnon).

There is only one ranger for every 3,481 hectares of forests, "which makes the government forest ranger the real endangered species," he said.

Nationwide, roughly 4,500 forest rangers watch over 15 million bectares of forest lands. "On the average, there are about 300 forest rangers per region. Imag-

me an area the size of Mindanao with

only 1,800 rangers and you get the alarming picture," Zubiri said. He added that forest rangers were paid P9,000 a month. Most of them do the job with just their wits and rosaries. They lack equipment, such as vehicles,

radios and firefighting gear

President Macapagal-Arroyo recently ordered the arming of forest rangers as part of a renewed drive against illegal logging following the disastrous floods that hit Luzon.

They were armed only with rosaries in the face of death threats from poschers and illegal loggers," Zubiri mid.

The lawmaker brought up the lack

the lack of government resources and manpower to stop illegal logging.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has proposed a budget of PS.6 billion for 2005. "But because the agency takes care of everything under the sun-water, land, air wildlife, forests, as well as minerals under the ground, that amount is Inadequate," Zubiri said.

He suggested that the DENR be allowed to retain more of its income and to increase forest charges so it could here more rangers.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur), chair of the House approprations committee, made a similar recommendation, saying that raising fees would augment the department's budget and fund conservation activities.

He noted that the DENR was able to collect only P106 million in forest charges from logging in 2002 or a measly 1/56th of its budget of aimost P6 billion in the same year.

From 1998 to 2002, the government spent P27 billion for the operations of the DENR, But the DENR was only able to collect 9762 million in

of forest rangers to draw attention to forest charges on harvested logs during the same period," he said

Andaya explained that Ms Arroyo's declaration of a nationwide logging moratorium does not render his call moot and academic as the order "appears to be temporary and covers Timber License Agreements only." He added: "There's rattan-where

the allowable harvest in 2002 was 42 million meters or 42,000 kilometers. That's more than 10 times the length of the Philippine archipelago." Quasi-TLAs exist, he said, citing tree plantations and communi,

ty-managed forests where log harvesting is allowed. Of the 403,000 cubic meters of logs harvested in 2002, only 89,000 cubic meters were from naturally grown trees. The rest came from plantations,

so the DENR claims," Andaya said. . . He said he was open to increasing the DENR's budget next year, but the agency must first demonstrate its ability to internally generate income.

"If the DENR could collect more from permits and licenses it would issue next year, it should be allowed to retain part of its income as an incentive," Andaya said.

Atienza anthem order 'toothless'

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IT IS a measure good only on paper.

A Manila minority councilor had this to say about the executive order of Mayor Lito Atienza requiring all malls in Manila to play the national anthem at the beginning and end of their business days.

"It's just on paper. How would that be implemented if there is no law requiring that?" said first district Councilor Francisco Domagoso, better known as Isko Moreno.

However, Moreno added that should

to his order, the measure would breeze through the City Council.

There is no question, we would be behind this measure, because we are also for encouraging nationalism," he

Attenza issued the order last week as part of City Hall's drive to restore flag all over the city and the playing of the anthem in malls.

He said the order would be implemented immediately. He warned peo-

Atienza seek an ordinance to give teeth ple who would not cooperate with the program that they would face "having a harsh relationship with City Hail."

In principle, its okay. But the way he will do it, it's beyond his powers," said Domagoso, saying that the punishment the mayor had thought of seemed dictatorial.

Atienza has acknowledged that an patriotic pride among Manilans ordinance would be needed to back through the display of the Philippine up his order so that the the measure may be implemented "forever."

In fact, his allies in the Council have begun drafting the needed mea-

Funds for folk affected by rail project ready

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MONEY is ready.

National Housing Authority officials said yesterday that it was ready to release the disturbance compensation for Malabon City residents to be displaced by the Northrail Project.

"We can release the money anytime. We are just waiting for them (affected residents)," NHA assistant general manager Jopet Sison told the INQUERER.

Some affected residents said a few days ago they were ready to move out of their houses but they were just waiting for their disturbance fund of P50,000 per family.

The two rival groups in the area have both opted to avail of the Balik Probinsiya program offered by the NHA af- first. Then the NHA would

to an already developed relocation site in Towerville, San Jose Del Monte City in Bula-

The families will use the money to initially pay for the private lots they plan to buy.

Members of the Samahan ng mga Naninirahan sa Riles (Malabon Ciry) are already negotiating with the owner of a private property in Panghulo, Malabon, while members of the Pederation of Railways Informal Settlers in Malabon have started negotiating with the owner of an agricultural land in Pandi, Bulacan.

But Sison said none of the negotiations had been final-

According to an NHA official, negonations for a sale should also be completed

ter they refused to relocated have to sign a memorandum of understanding with the land owners and the residents before the money could be released, he added.

Vice President and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Chair Noh De Castro earlier announced the affected houses along the project would have to be demolished before the end of November.

A House of Representatives committee sought a moratorium on any demolition because the residents had not yet chosen a relocation site.

The moratonum has since been lifted and the long-delayed relocation of Malabon residents have begun progressing, House committee on housing member Rep. Mayong Aguja said.



GARBAGE in, fertilizer (and money) out. A member of the recycle crew of Barangay Barangka Itaas at work.

EDWIN BACASHAS

Barangay turns...

From page A24

Ocampo seid in Filipino.

Also, he added, "You need to have the will to implement the law because people will get mad at you for being rop strict."

Violators of the law, in normal cases, are either fined or imprisoned But in Barangka Itaas, officials are more

A violators is given the choice of becoming a garbage marshal for three to four hours a day until he has fully served a penalty of 78 hours of community service.

As a marshal, he has to watch over

one violates the segregation pro-

The success of Barangka Itaas's waste management program has restated in a scholarship program where residents are sent to college, high school or elementary school.

That program is funded by 70 percent of the earnings from the sale of fertilizers and recycled solid waste like bordes, plastics and aluminum.

Barangay scholars get funds for their full ruttion, books and a P50daily allowance. Barangka Itaas currently has 27 scholars who are all res-.dents of the barangay.

the drop zones and make sure that no program's earnings pay for the 12- uses one and a half trucks.

member recycle crew.

This crew collects and sorts from the drop zones plastic, aluminum cans and bottles every night. They are also in charge of selling these "thrash" to junkshops the next day.

For its triumph, Barangka Itaas has become a model facility and denio site for various barangays and nongovernment organizations like the Mother Earth Foundation

Officials and residents are proud of

When they started the program, their 14 000 population peeded three dump trucks to collect their garbage. The remaining 40 percent of the Now, their 17,000 population only

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Volunteers celebrate in Manila

By Blanche S. Rivera

SOME were seminarians, some government employees, some fore.gners, some from the provinces but all were volunteers from 37 organizations that converged in Manita vesterday to celebrate International Volunteers Day.

The affair, dubbed "Discover. Act. Volunteeri" hailed Filipino volunteers here and abroad, where they serve even in high-risk countries for various United Nations missions.

"The Philippines makes a great commitment to volunteerism. Currently, votunteers from the Philippines serve around the world," UN resident coordinator Deborah Landey said in a state-

ment yesterday.

Data from the Phiappine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVS-CA) showed that around 100 Filipino professionals give up their jobs every year to go on volunteer missions for the United Nations.

Tess Bahon, a senior volunteer service officer, said local volunteers, most of whom serve in local governments, receive only around P2,000 as monthly allowance.

"These are people who have a college education but who wish to help their communities," Bahon said in an interview at the Clamshell 2 in Intramuros where the fair was held

Local volunteers used to be "contracted" for two years,

METROBRIEFS

grave threat. Magtibay's two

but the length of service now has been shortened to six

months to a year. Volunteers who are sent on exchange missions to other countries need three years of experience in their respective fields to qualify as volun-

"They are the ones who can get a higher, or at least similar pay here but who choose to use their specialization in areas that need them most," PNVSCA volunteer service officer Efren Antipor-

The Filipino volunteers are usually sent on humanitarian missions sanctioned by the United Nations to promote relief and rehabilitation, democratization and peace-

plinary convergences between

religion and related disciplines

by revisiting the contributions

of various religious organiza-

tions to religious education in

the Philippines. For inquirles,

call Janny or Alteen at 735-

8539, 0927-3323029 and

0917-8222241

IP educators meet

educators' conference will be held in UP Dillman on Dec. 9 to 10. This will feature three events: an iP educators' forum titled "Developing a Culturally Appropriate Education System for Filipino Indigenous Peoples Toward Sustainable Development," a march for iP rights and a concert. The forum will be held at the University Hotel on Dec. 9 to 10. The march will coincide with Human Rights Day on Dec. 10 and the concert will start at 8 p.m. For more informatton, call Erwin or Liza at 02-



Company Persons 10 August

Andrea was a proper to proper to the contract of the contract

Rob suspect fails ONE OF the four suspects in a

bank robbery along Shaw Boulevard last week was arrestad by the police Saturday night. Nestor Macabents was collared while watking on a street in Marikina City, Macabenta, with three others altegadly robbed East West Bank at 11:30 a.m. Friday The group took off with a etill undetermined amount of money in two motorcycles. Macabenta was initially identifield through the roques gallery presented to the teller and clients, sald Santor Supt Flauf Roth L. Navarre Mading.

Cop in trouble

FELL OW policemen arrested PO3 Bernardo Magtioay Jr., of MBA Diago Silang Village, Barangay Ususan Taguig, for allegedly shooting at a traffic antorcer in Paramaque City. He faces charges of indiscriminate firing, alarm and scandal, and

companions Kanneth Salanda, 37, of Parañaque City, and Rolly Sinco, 37, of Novaliches City, were also arrested. Pouce said the suspects were leaving Batangas Eatery on Oulrino Avenue at about 7 a.m. when traffic enforcer Renaido Galang tried to apprehend Magtibay for disregarding a traffic sign. Magtibay allegadly pulled out a .9-mm pistor and opened fire at the enforcer before speed no

ASAP conference

gaux C. Orth

away. Galang was unhert. Mar-

THE AMERICAN Studies Assoclation of the Philippines shall hold its annual conference and general assembly on Dec. 11 at the University of the East Conference Hall, fourth floor, Dalupan Building, In Sampaloc, Manila. The conference, which has for its theme "Raligious" Convergences, ASAP 2004," hopes to explore interdisciAN INDIGENOUS people's (IP)

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirec.com.ph

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

Barangay turns garbage into gold

By Ruth L. Navarra

FOR AN average bousehold, waste management ends when wet thrash is segregated from the

Average, however, does not apply to residents of Barangay Barangka Itaas in Mandaluyong

In this barangay, waste segregation is not only a day to day affair but a commitment to the community.

Through the leadership of

Barangka Itaas has succeeded in recycling the community's solid and wet garbage.

And what's best is that the barangay has turned an ugly and dirty affair into a real moneymaking venture.

The centerpiece of this waste management operation are two composting machines that produce organic fertilizer out of leftover food.

Each machine can process from 500 kilos to a ton of left-

barangay chair Danilo Ocampo, overs that otherwise could have ended rotting in a dump or clogging the drain.

Out of 6,000 kilos of leftover food comes 2,000 kilos of fertiliz-

The machines, donated by the city government, operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week on a 29sqm lot near the Pasig River.

Ocampo said Baguio farmers liked their fertilizer so much that the tillers would pay for them in advance to ensure the goods go to them. And for good reason.

The barangay chair said they in 1998, the barangay had to im-had developed their fertilizer port the enzyme to remove the specifically for orchids, vegetables and fruits, resulting in better yield.

But what about the smell? Don't the composting area's neighbors complain?

Residents who live near the site say that they only smell a faint beer-like scent in the first

two to three days of processing. Ocampo said the secret was with an enzyme that they put in the garbage.

When they started the project

bad smell from the leftover food.

However, using the knowledge he acquired from working for seven years at a solid waste management company in Southern California, Ocampo has formulated his own enzyme which is now used at the composting center.

Republic Act 9003 requires barangays all over the country to have a Materials Recovery Pacility (MRF) for its refuse.

In accordance with that law,

Barangka Itaas placed 17 drop zones for segregated waste generated in their community. Residents could only throw their garbage from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight.

To make sure people complied, the barangay hired a town crier who goes around the barangay twice a day to remind residents that there is a law that required them to segregate their garbage.

"People need constant reminding because they tend to forget,"

BARANGAY/ AZ3



to the brand that other brands rely on



Mandaluyong presses drive vs smoking

By Ruth L. Navarra

MANDALUYONG City has stepped up moves to show that it is not merely blowing smoke in its antismoking campaign.

The city government has given the owners of 12 night spots on Shaw Boulevard five days to comply with Ordinance No. 279 S-2004, which prohibits smoking in enclosed offices, in all government and public buildings, schools, hospitals and medical clinics, and all forms of public transportation.

Annsmoking task force chief Robertino Fortes reportedly found the nightspots in violation of the ordinance during an inspection.

Club owners have to comply within the allotted time or face closure...

During the inspection, task force members apprehended seven violators.

Violators will have to pay a fine of P1,000 P2,000 and P3,000 for the first, second and third offense, respectively.

Third-time offenders will also have to spend three to five days in jail.





Monday, December 6, 2004 2nd Week of Advent

Gospel:

1k 5:17-26

One day Jesus was teaching and many Pharisees and teachers of the Law had come from every part of Galilee and Judea and even from Jerusalem. They were sitting there while the power of the Lord was at work to heal the sick. Then some men brought a paralyzed man who lay on his mat. They tried to enter the house to place him before Jesus, but they couldn't find a way through the crowd. So they went up on the roof and, removing the tiles, they lowered him on his mat into the

middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "My friend, your sins are forgiven." At once the teachers of the Law and the Pharusees began to wonder, "This man insults

God. Who can forgive sins but only God?" But Jesus knew their thoughts and asked them, "Why are you reacting like this? Which is easier to say: Your sins are forgiven, or: 'Get up and walk?' Now you shall know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." And Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." At once the man stood before them. He took up the mat he had been lying on and went

home prassing God. Amazement seized the people and they praised God. They were filled with a holy fear and said, "What wonderful things we have seen todayi"

Commentary

The Pharisees and teachers of the Law were "sitting there," the account says, and the paralyxed man was lying on his mat. They were as paralyzed as he: they in their "seat of learning," he in his bed of pain. Jesus said to him, "Get up!" and he got up and wolked. But by the end of the story the Pharisees and teachers of the Law are still seated. Their religion wasn't such as to enable, or even to allow, anyone to get up and move. The effect of religious teaching, all too often, is to keep people seated-not only that, but seated in judgment. The effect of real religion is to give us "the mind of Christ" (1 Cor 2:16) his life's work, he said, was "to bring good news to the poor ... to proclaim release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go fres..." (Lk.4:18).

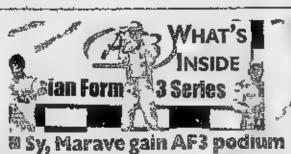
A Christian who went to study zen in Japan met a zen master who asked her what was moving in her spiritual life. "I dwell a lot recently on the idea of the Kingdom of God," she replied. Instantly he said, "Show me the Kingdom of God!" You get nowhere by telling a sen master about your ideas (see Jan. 8). That worman became a zen master herself eventually, and sha spends much of her time and energy in prison ministry—setting captives inwardly free. That work shows the Kingdom of God.

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres





■ Cavs, james soar high Castillo labors to keep crown A30



Easy does it for Arriba King

Coca-Cola halts slide, thrashes Phone Pals

GAME TUESDAY (Suble)

& p.m.—FedEx vs.

GAMES WEINESDAY (PhilSports Arena) 4:30 p.m.—Pureloods vs San Miguel Beer



By June Navarro

LEO AVENIDO picked the right time to come up big for his

Eastern University star helped fire up the Coca-Cola Tigers, who finally broke out of a samp with a 93-81 victory over the Taik 'N Text Phone Pals in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup last night

at the Araneta Coliseum. Avenido joined hands with Poch Juimo in a Coke uprising in the first half as Coca Cola snapped out of a four-game slide m the tournament.

Juimo banged in 11 of his 16 points in the first quarter and Avenido added 11 of his 17 before the haif in a Coca-Cola rally that out the the Tigers ahead, 49-40, and set the stage for their conquest of the league-leading Phone Pals.

By notching only their second yictory in eight games, the Tigers improved to 6-9 while avoiding

MAKATI

16/F GT Tower

QUEZON CITY

4/F Cadar Exec, Bidg.

Ranged against the toughest the gnominy of losing five games squad thus far, the former Par in a row for the first time in fran-

Although they are out of contention for the top two spots in the next phase, the Tigers prevented the Phone Pals from clinching an outright berth in the next round by dealing them a

third defeat in 13 games. "Now that we're out of the top four, we have nothing to lose and just enjoyed the game," said Coke coach Chot Reyes.

"It took a lot of pressure off our backs. We thought about getting on top too much and that pres-

sured the team," he added in the second game, Shell nearly came apart in the stretch and watched Sta. Lucia fumble a fastbreak attempt in the dying seconds to eke out an 84-83 deci-

COCA-COLA/A27

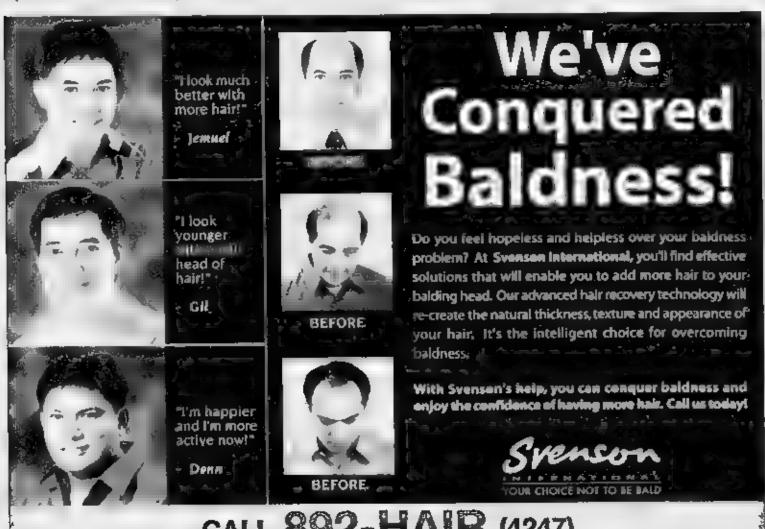




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PACQUIAO listens to Roach during training in Davao.

Thai Fahsan goes when Manny decides it's time

By Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

IT'S UP to Manny.

This was the response of American trainer Freddie Roach yesterday when asked how long he expects Fahsan 3K Battery to last in his Dec. 11 showdown against Ring Magazine featherweight king Manny Pacquiao in a fight card titled "Yanig sa Taguige at The Port.

Roach spoke of Pacquiao's "great shape" in an interview with Viva Sports' Ronnie Nathanielsz after a pre-fight special on the popular boxing show "The Main Event" on RPN 9 that showed Fahsan kissing the canvas in a fight with veteran journeyman Joebar Damosmog before knocking out the Filipino southpaw in the sixth round.

Roach and Pocquiso, together with personal trainer Buboy Pernandez, arrived from Davao yesterday at 9 a.m. to fulfill pre-fight appearances.

Roach, who personally put the Filipino ring hero

to two weeks of intensive training in Davao City, uled to arrive from Bangkok this evening in time said Pacquiao was "ready to go to work in this fight" although Roach has cautioned Pacquiao and fight fans "not to take Fahsan lightly.

Roach said Fahsan "is a rough That fighter, durable and who has trained hard for two months."

Roach reminded Pacquiao that Fahsan "is sure to fight his best fight against him because this is an opportunity of a lifetime."

Roach said Paoquiao had sparred eight tough rounds on Friday in Davao and would taper off with three more rounds of sparring at the Wild Card Gym in BF Homes at 1 p.m. today after road work in the morning. Roach said Pacquao is hovering around 127 lb, a pound over the featherweight limut.

Fahsan and Chaiyong Distar, the opponent of Philippine and Orient Pacific Boxing Federation No. 1 super flyweight Z "The Dream" Gorres, along with manager Jimmy Charchotchuang, are sched-

for the press-public preview at the Wild Card Gym tomorrow,

The Thai, known as "Destroyer of Filipinos" with over 20 victims, has been assured of a featherweight rating by international promoter Murad Muhammad.

Saturday's showdown has been sanctioned by the International Boxing Federation as an eliminator, with the winner moving up to No. 2 behind WBA/IBF champion Juan Manuel Marquez.

Meantime, Roach and Muhammad appealed to Filipino boxing fans to come out in full force and support Pacquiso whom the trainer described as "one of the most exciting fighters in the world and the best featherweight today."

Roach predicted that by the end of 2005 Pacquiao would have beaten Marquez, Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera to become the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

A cry for reforms, a call to action

HOW could one who has no conscience, tike Go Teng Kok, agree to give the BAP a conscience?

This was among the messages that reached us after we printed last time statements of Go, head of national athletics and chess associations.

Another question wondered if I too have allowed myself to be included in the GTK payroll.

As the displeased responses would show, not everybody loves Go Teng Kok.

There was also this suggestion that GTK does pay his admirers, including some

members of the media Of course, the scatting calls were not directed at Go, but specifically to the secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, Graham Lim, a GTK protégé who created a national uproar after he adowed the national flag to be trampled on and kicked around like garbage in the recent Fiba-Stankovic Cup in Taipei

GTK had called to say he told Lum not to send a hopeless scrub squad identified as the RP national team to the Taipei series.

Well, the damage, result of a shameful slaughtez, has been done

Then next came a classor for the ouster of the irresponsible BAP see gen.

Yesterday, a group of concerned sports people handed to us a manifesto that they wanted to print in a national paper.

The signatories, including key figures in the so-called basketball super body, have offered to pay for the publication of a fullpage advertisement.

Your reporter here has instead offered to run the contents of the anti-Lim manifesto, on the condition that money intended for its publication would be donated to the Church fund for flood victims being raised by Monsignor Gaudencio Rosales, the Archbishop of Mamila who had nearly lost

his life fighting illegal loggers in Mindanao. The manifesto is titled "A cry for reBARE EYE



forms, a call to action." Here it is:

Filipinos had always taken pride in their basketball teams as being among

The names of legendary national players-Mumar, Loyzaga, Bernardo, Ocampo, Jaworski, Caudic, and many more who had donned the national uniform with distinction—flowed from the lips of fans.

Although that legendary era is long gone, the dream of every Filipino to once again see our national flag fly high in the realm of Asian basketball competitions remains.

Unfortunately, there is lack of coherence on the part of the current leadership of the Fiba-recognized BAP, headed by an absent, ailing president and whose board was composed of directors hand-picked by these officers, with everything orchestrated by an influence-peddling non-Filipino, whose passport had been canceled by the Justice department yet who continues to travel freely.

There has been a clear desecration of democracy that our great national heroes, from Rizal and Bonifacio down to Ninoy Aquino, had died for.

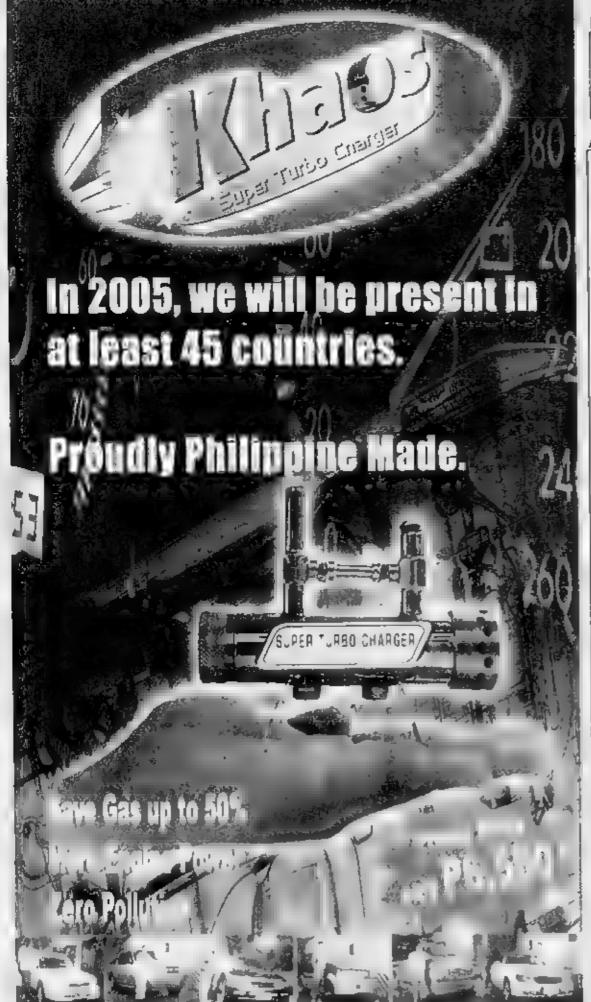
If sports is indeed a microcosm of national life, it's no surprise that our fall to the pits in the game which most Filipinos hold dear to their hearts is now becoming a reflection of our country's overall descent.

If we could not get our act together in something as important to our spirits as the proper leadership and composition of the national sports association of the game we feel most passionate about, then there is no way we could go forward and tackle the greater issues at handthat of national unity and recovery.

The recent desecration of the Philippine flag before an international audience in Taipei is the final insult which gave us no recourse but rally our people and call for changes and reforms in the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

We also beseech the Philippine Olympic Committee and the international basketball groups, mainly the Fiba, to recognize this urgent national outray and cause the formation of a new responsible national sports association to handle the affairs of basketball in the Philippines.

Please help restore our national game to its rightful adherents and admunistrators.



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ENRILE: He's back

Gunner Enrile ends slump

By Jasmine W. Payo

RONJAY Enrile's shooting touch seemed to have de-' serted him in the PBL Open Championship.

The Toyota Otis-Lettan top guard, who used to take boud shots anywhere on the floor, surprisingly delivered woeful performances early in the series,

earry in the series.
Enrile averaged a measily 6.3 points and shot 4-for-16 beyond the arc in his first eight games. Despite the poor shooting, however, the 22-year-old vereran never lost his fo-

Last Tuesday, Enrile appeared to have regained top form when the scored a team-high 15 points in the Knights' 85-61 win over ICTSI-La Salle.

"At least I was able to recover from my slump," said Enrile after being named as the Player of the Week by the PBL Press Corps.

Knights coach Louie Alas had never lost hope on his main man. "I know him well and I have strong faith in him," Alas said. "He's still one of the league's

finest players."

Enrile now aims to put an end to the Knights' erratic form. Toyota Ods-Lerran remained fifth with a 4-5 slate, half a game behind Weicoat Paints.

"My main mission now is for the team to make it to the No. 3 or 4 slot, just in case we don't get the top two automatic slots in the semifinals," he said.

Coca-Cola halts...

From page A25

Tony dela Cruz stepped into an illadvised pass by Mac Cuan in transition as Sheli held on for its 10th win in 15 games that put the Turbochargers at solo second.

Sta. Lucia dropped to 4-9.

The Scores' First Game: COCA-COLA

93—Avendo 17, Juinio 16. Reavis 16, Morano 15. Peek 8, Arigo 8, Abarriantos 6, Walnwright 5, Leo 2, Anionio 0

TALK 'N TEXT 81—Totan 16, Miller 15, 8elano 14, De Ocampo 14, Pablo 8, Azapag 7, Fran 3, Ravena 2, Camaso 2, Gelig 0, Salangsang 0.

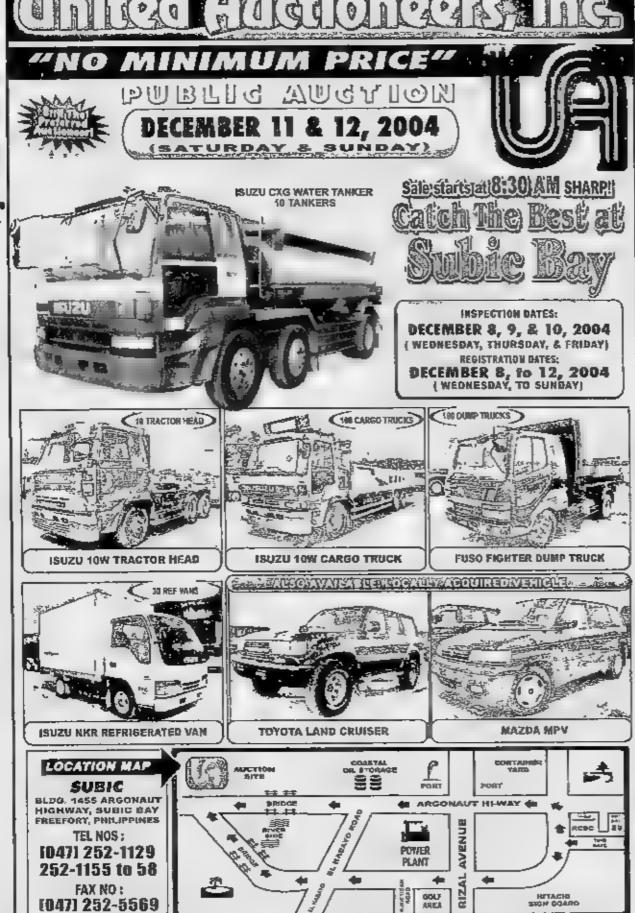
Quarters: 26-16, 49-40, 71-55, 93-81

Second Game

SHELL 64-Dela Cruz 27, Alvarez 16, Tubid 11, Ferrerta 7, Cruz 7, Mamaril 6, Sta. Maria 4, Calagulo 4, Sollo 2, Legaspi 0, Sajar 0, Jackson 0.

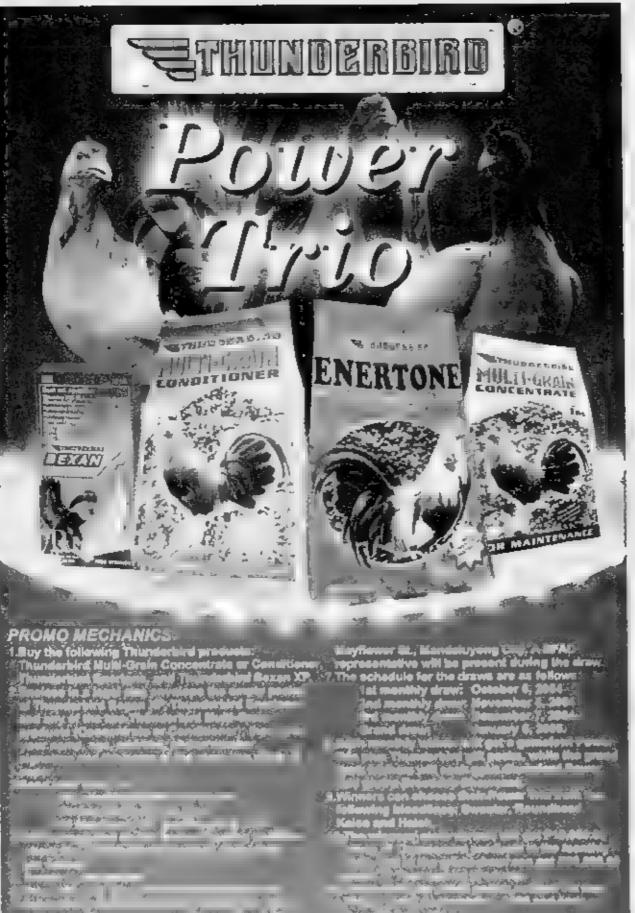
STA. LISCIA 88—Aquino 23. Duramdes 18. Espino 17. Francisco 7. Gumatay 6, Genzales 6, Locsin 4, Mendoza 2, Cuan 0, Omoton 0, Santos 0.

Quarters, 23-19, 35-38, 66-66, 84-83.



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nnovating

The answer is to do more than what others do.

Why not embrace the possibilities, anticipate the future and harness the world's potential to innovate.

Lady Legends outclass FEU volleybelles

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission Lady Legends went through another obstaole with nary a scare yesterday, pummeling a severely outsized Far Eastern side in straight sets, 25-13, 25-23, 25-21, in the Shakey's V-League eliminations.

The Legends won for the third straight firme and kept their hold of the solo lead after just one week of the tournament they jouned "just for him and to inspire."

Attackers Rosemarie Prochina and

ors with 11 points each as the Lady Legends, dominating with brute force, drove the Lady Tamaraws to their second loss in as many games after a 90-minute battle

Made up of the core of the country's last gold medal-winning team in the Southeast Asian Games, PSC gets its first acid test tomorrow when it clashes with defending champion Santo Tomas at the Rizal Collseum.

The Tigresses stayed in second place after zooming to their second consecutive with

Theresa Dela Rosa shared game-high hon- with a 25-17 25-16, 25-20 rout of Letran.

Roxanne Pimentel, reinforcing UST, again came up with a sparking performance of 20 points for the Tigresses, 14 of them coming from outright winners.

The Lady Knights remained in solo third spot despite losing for the first time in two outings. La Salle, Lyceum and San Sebastian are all winless.

The Legends have dropped only one set so far in the tournament despite being far from peak form with just one month to

"My players are starting to get the feel of the competition," said coach "lbtz Suzara. "We did not think that we would be witning this many games this early. But now that we are, it's my job to make sure that we keep winning.

So lopsided was the PSC win that Far Eastern coach Florentino Santos did not leave his seat in the third set, letting his deputies do the coaching.

Ailyn Ege led the Lady Tams with nine points and Genelyn Alemania chipped in

TCL's Espiritu sprints to Criterium race victory

VIGAN-Team TCEs Victor Espiritu put on pion, took all but six of the 15 kps of the a dazzling show of sprinting prowess and ruled the inaugural staging of the Cycling Search Invitational Criterium Race over Team Pageor's Lloyd Reynante and teammete Merculio Ramos.

Espiritu, the 1996 Marlboro Tour cham- for a total of 52.

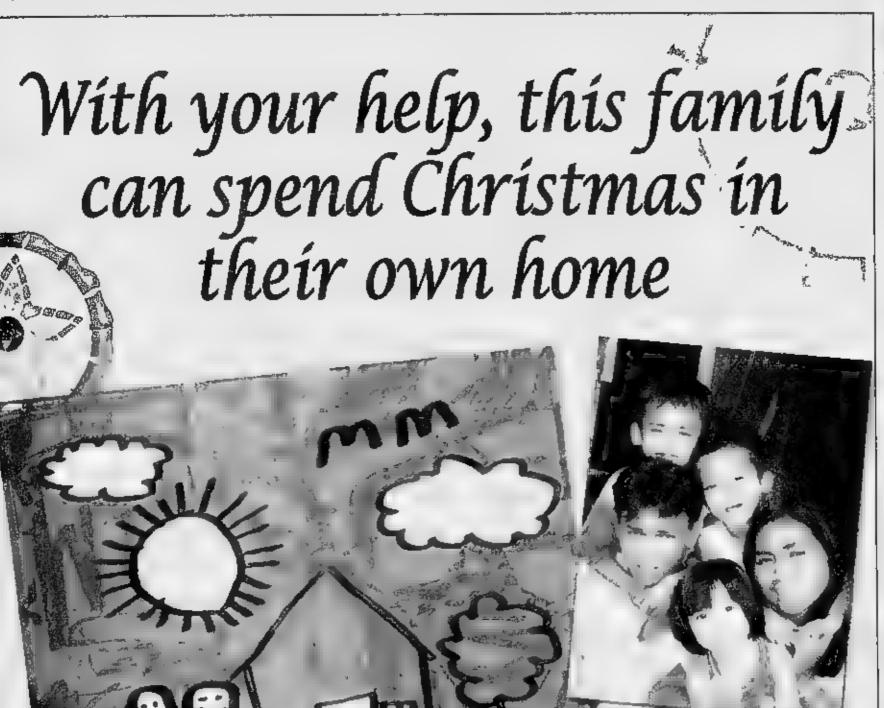
third and final leg contested on the narrow success around the provincial capitol here, including the final sprint worth 10 points.

He also ruled three intermediate sprints and came away with a whopping 34 points

That was 16 points up on Reynante, who was tied with Ramos at the start of the day. Reynante wound up with 13 points and an overall total of 36 for second while Ramos struggled for seven points and finished with 30 for third in the event sponsored by Pagcor-Casino Filipmo and organized by Treo

Team TCL also ran away with the team crown worth P15,000 while Team Pagcor settled for the P10,000 second prize. Team Jazy took third place worth PS,000.

David Perez rode from as low as 13th place to snatch the elite category crown.



Make this Christmas more meaningful for a less fortunate family by being part of Bullding on Faith with Families, a project of Habitat for Humanity Philippines which has already provided homes for more than 10,000 families around the country.

Building on Faith with Families will build simple, decent, affordable houses with the help of volunteers.

You too can make a difference by volunteering or making a donation that will help us build houses and give self-respect for families in need of decent shelter.

Join us build houses at BASECO, Port Area, Manila from December 6 -11, 2004.

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THE PHILIPPINES' Tyson Sy (left) celebrates on the podium

Sy, Mai podiui

ROSARIO, Batangas—Tyson Sy and Pe- Yos pon Marave took full advantage of a mishap early in the afternoon race that boosted Filipinos to a podium finish in the final leg of the Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 Super Prix Series yesterday at the Batangas Racing Circuit (BRC) here.

Series leaders John O'Hara of Ireland and Christian Jones of Australia got entengled in the fourth lap and the mishap knocked them out of

Indonesia's Ananda Mikola went on to win with a top time of 25 minutes and 48.6 seconds followed by Sy (25.56.5) and Marave (26:06.6)

It was the first time As: ans dominated a leg in this series sponsored by PLDT MyDSL, Top Gear,

Manotoc back

BAGUIO CITY—All eyes will be on Tommy Manoroc when the 55th Fil-Am International Amateur God Tournament resumes with the regular men's tournament today at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay

Manoroc, the winningest individual champion here with eight titles in a tie with the legendary Golem Silverio, will return to the roumament as leader of the Nike Golf

romp with

A former

developme vowed to no pute with to This time the NGT squ

now nead

Of boxir

IN MY openion, this Saturday's fight between Manny Pacquiao and Pahsan 3K Battery is one-sided because the Filipino fighter is simply too awesome and too experienced for the undistinguished boxer from Tha.land

Bur I'm not alone in saying that the bout smells of a mismatch from the beginning. I'm saying that only a few of us have branded this fight one-sided and far too many of them, including majority of media members who are apologists for boxing, could have asked the promoters to provide a worther opponent (instead of the obscure Palisan) against the battle-tested Pacquino.

Worse, Pahsan's manager, a certain Junmy Charchotchaung, is reportedly the same guy who brought here last October a Thai parsy named Samingkao Chutipol, who was banned for two years by the Games and Amusements Board for hitting the canvas even without receiving a punch In his match against former World Boxing Council super llyweight champion Gerty Peñalosa. The GAB also suspended the two matchmakers of that farcies, fight in Mandate City, but oddly, stapped only a mere warning on the promoter despite the incontrovertible evidence that the public was deceived by the gross mismatch, a rip-off of

The GAB should not treat enting pro-

LIVING Manole Iñigo

CLEAN

moters ligh sponsibility not clearly ing rules, t fans that i Saturday's. cribates to terest in pri

Incident mer WBC endorsemo know Salu wasn't ben was quote-(American Nazario ani mended fr

I beg to and the bu mesmatch did Salud,

Lim lifts San Lore

GAMES TODAY (Pasay Sports Complete) 9 a.m.-CCM vs EAC (A) 10:30 a.m.—t.a Galis-Manila vs St. Francis (A) 12 no. PUP vs Olivarez (A) 1:30 p.m.—La Salle-Dasma vs La Salle-Manile (women) 3 p.m.—La Salle-Dosnosiñas es PATTS (B)

THE COLEGIO de San Lorenzo Griffins displayed outstanding defense in a 74-63 de-

12th Nation dation (Nu ment at the Jeffrey L ताम्य प्रीपंत्री वर share of se-Manila anu i Porytechi

carteer pres women's d molition of Oliverez College yesterday in the

Underdogs



with promotions class winner Oliver Turvey of Britain (center) and Moreno Socrappo of Indonesia.

ave gain AF3 n in final leg

shama, Denso, NU 107 and Manila Bulletin. v's previous best was third place, which he eved in the second leg of the AF3 in Subic last

/ith his finish, the 17-year-old Sy topped the 4 AF3 championship in the promotional class, ision he dominated this season.

Hara was looking to get an inside truck on 's in the fourth lap when his car dipped the rafian's rear instead. The collision forced s's Dallara F301 to spin to its left and hit ira, forcing the two drivers to ram against the

Hara and Jones emerged unscathed but they dn't get back in the race.

r's a very exciting year for me. I've learned a and I look forward to next year," said Sy. farave, who won the championship in last shed first in the promotions class.

year's edition of the AF3, struggled in the first leg held earlier this year also here at the BRC.

His third-place firmsh yesterday was his highest in any of the AF3 rounds this year. He placed fifth in the China and Indonesia stops and ranked only as high as fourth overall.

"I started with a lot of bad buck," said Marave. "It's just now that I'm beginning to get a feel of my car," added Marave, who drives for Shell Kinetic F3.

in the morning race yesterday, O'Hara and Jones finished in the top two for the sixth time in 10 races this season.

O'Hara, Marave's teammate at Shell Kinetic F3, timed 25 minutes and 8.8 seconds followed by Jones in 25 minutes and 19.6 seconds.

Mikela placed third in the morning race. In the same race, Oliver Turvey of Britain fin-

Cebu, Davao forge U-19 title clash IT'S ALL over for hot favorites National Capi-

tal Region and Boilo in the PFF-adidas U-19 Championship in Cebu City

Davao pulled off a stunning semifinal upset of NCR with a 4-3 penalty shoot-out victory after the two teams had battled to a 2-2 draw in regulation and extra time.

And host Cebu completed the day's twin giant killing act by tripping flodo, the reigning champion, 1-0, in extra time to arrange a title showdown with Davao today.

The duel for the top prize between Davao and the hosts is set at 2 p.m. at the University of San Carlos pitch in Talamban. The game for therd place between NCR and Boilo kicks off at 9 a.m.

Davao and Cebu, represented by Cebu Pootball Association Mayotzko, fought to a 1-1 draw in the eliminations.

NCR blows hot, cold

NCR cooled off after a sizzling start and failed to reach the finals for the second straight year when it missed twice in the shoot-out.

Mark Lusong and Ahmed Tahil gave NCR an early 2-0 lead, but Davao fought back to equalize before the break with goals from Napoleon Nidea and Andy Estatio.

After 20 minutes of extension following a fiercely and evenly fought second-half, NCR eventually choked.

Claiming credit for clinching Davao's win was goalie Aries Bartos, who saved NCR's last attempt to extend the shoot-out into another musicl.

Cebuano football pnde exploded throughout the city earlier after the hosts eliminated the reigning champions with a goal by Ronald Mahilum, 12 minutes into extra time, from a corner by Martin Bontia.

Psychological advantage

in a match where both squads looked physically, technically and tactically even on the pixch, the psychological advantage of playing in front of a home crowd helped the Cebuanos pull through.

Jonathan Maximo, Cebu Football Association president, was ecstatic with both semifinal results. He noted that football, no matter who triumphs in the finals today, is the winner in this edition of the adidas tourney.

However, the finalists have threatened not to play if host and organizer Cebu FA fails to come up with precautionary security measures and a medical team. With a report from Marian Baring, Correspondent/Cebu Daily News



for powerhouse Nike golf team

is going for a two-division tide lineup headed by Juvic Pagun-

intional team mainstay and a group working to boost the of the sport, Manotoc had ver play here again after a disamament officials in 2001 Tommy returns as skipper of id in the Am Division also

g mismatches

made up of his son, Matthew, Ronnie Torrecampo, Dave Hernandez and Abe Rosal.

With Pagunsan in NGI's Fil Division team are fellow Canlubang aces Jun Bernis, Jay Bayron, Boyet Saragoza and JT Tanpingco.

The two Nike squads are the top seeds on paper with identical zero handlesps.

Manila Southwoods, Mizuno-DHL, PAL Interclub champion Del Monte and Royal Caribbean are expected to give NGT tough opposition in the centerpiece divisions of this commament acknowledged as the biggest and older international golf tournament in the world.

Royal Caribbean has a team handicap of 0.43 in the Fil Division followed by defending champion Mizuno-DHL with 0.457, Manifa Southwoods with 0.933 and Del Monte with 1. Frank Cimans, PDI Northern Lieson Bureau



Palos Verdes golfers

return from brink to win Sta. Lucia Tour

ly. While it is true that the reof promoters for mismatches is pelled out in the present box e GAB should step in to assure ery promotion, including this is well-balanced and conhe enhancement of public inessional boxing.

lly, I must take assue with for--cretary general Rudy Salud's of Serurday's promotion. I fairly well, and I can't say I idied by his statement—if he correctly—that the promoters Murad Muhammad, Rod M&M Sports) should be comstaging the Pacquiao-Fahsan

issagree. Based purely on form ers' record, the fight screams om the beginning. Then why from many boxing fans look

up to for guidance, endorse the promo-

And Murad Muhammad? There will always be with us too many of his kind; promoters who continue to thrive in professional boxing in spite of a dark past. Recall that in 1983, Murad Muhammad co-promoted (with a certain Robert Andreoli) one of the most glaring examples of a boxing mismatch. In that card held in Las Vethe promoters puted heavyweight champion Larry Holmes against mexperienced challenger Marvis Frazier in a championship fight that was sanctioned by the fledgling International Boxing Federation (at the last minute) but not by the more prestigious World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association.

Reporting on that one-sided fight, veteran American sports journalist Howard Cosell wrote: "Holmes promptly disposed of young Marvis Prazier, sen of former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier, in the first round with a potentially lethal righthand punch, Young Frazier was simply too

small to offer Holmes much of a challenge." If memory serves, Frazier's sorry loss was one of the compelling reasons why Cosell ended his romance with pro boxing after almost 25 years of covering the fight scene for the US television network ABC.

RANCHO Palos Verdes of Davao did points heading into the final leg," the improbable over the weekend, rallying from way behind two highly fancied contingents to snatch the overall team title in the 5th Sta. Lu-

cia Golf Tour which came to a dra-

matic close at two venues.

The Palos Verdes golfers overcame a seven-point deficit to overhaul leader Alra Vista of Cebu in the third and final leg of the event and bag its first ever overall crown in the unique series among seven golf clubs flying the bunner of the giant real estate firm.

A big victory by its Team 6 quar tet of Ronald Gabcia, Jing Tan, Jong Tan and 'LI Brodeth that highlighted Pasos Verdes' three-leg sweep in the division and a lighting runnerup finish in Group I by Tiber Marcelano, Monchit Mackay, Anthony Sasin and Boy Tan capped Palos Verdes' breakthrough win.

Palos Verdes netted an overall score of 121 points followed by Alta Vista with 116 and last year's champion Eagle Ridge with 115.

Helping the Palos Verdes drive was a surprise victory by Royale Tagaytay 3 in Group II which shut the door on Aka Vista.

Members of the Palos Verdes team erapted in wild celebration when their priumph was confurred during the awarding ceremonics held at the Orchard Ballroom in

"We were not expecting it, but we knew we could overcome seven tous.

said Paios frontiner Joe Marfori,

The Tour's executive commuttee members, Vicente Santos and engineer Wim Gob, said it was such a perfect ending to a final leg that almost got canceled due to the threat of bad weather brought by Typhoon

Globe Platinum served as the major sponsor of the Sta. Lucia Tour's fifth season. The other backers were Samsung, Omega, Titleist, Pootjoy, Cobra as hole-m-one sponsors as well as Pageor, Cebu Pocific, Unirock, Readycon, Marco Polo (Davao), Marriot (Cebu) and The Believue Hotel (Manila), Philippine Auflines, Pisanti, Kodak Express, Purefoods Corned Beef, Red Bull Barako and San Miguel Corp.

Alta Vista, which also finished runner-up last year, took home the overall title in Group I as its Team 1. made up of Ramonoto Garcia, Carl Almario, Joseph Stevens and Edito Tirol capped an impressive performance with a win at the Orchard.

in the individual categories, Oh Kwang Tek of Eagle Ridge edged Almario of Alta Vista via the countbock to top Class A while Rodinguez of Royale Tagayray took top honors in Class B. Galicia of Palos Verdes ruled Class C and Amonio Villaruel prevailed in Class D.

The Polos Verdes contingent brought home the Sta. Lucia Cup, symbol of overall supremacy in the Why just innovate?

When you can also usher in new movements, achieve amazing breakthroughs, and set lasting trends from which other companies will follow.

nzo cagers past Olivarez d Capital Region Athletic Assoleading the way with 23 points. Lim unleashed three of his seven triples in (AA) men's baskerball tournamilio Aguinaido College gym. the second period as the Griffins took a 47-30 lend at the half. His three other treys in n scored at will in the second

the third atlowed CDSI, to post a 60-44 edge. uters as the Griffins grabbed a Emilio Aguinaldo College leads Group A end spot at 2-1 with La Salleat 3-0 following a 58-36 thrashing of FEATL divarez in Group A. c University of the Philippines

PATTS prevailed over AMA Computer College, 73-44, In Group B while CDSL won over iled over CDSL, 57-41, in the ision, with Michelle Pacheco San Beda-Alabang, 53-50, in junior play.

"('ve had it," he said.

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SPORTS

Cavs, James soar high

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EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Aliantic Division	W	L	PCT	GH		
New York	8	8	500	-		
Boston	7	8	467	. 5		
Philadelphia	6	В	429	1/2		
Taranto	7	12	368	21/2		
New Jersey	4	12	250	4		
Southeast Division	W	L	PCT	GB		
Orlando	11	5	688			
Washington	10	5	.667	1/2		
Miami	11	7	.611	1		
Charlotte	4	10	.286	6		
Atlanta	2	14	125	9		
Central Division	W	L	PCT	<u>a</u> B		
Cleveland	11	6	.647			
ndlana	10	7	588	1		
Detroit	₿	8	.500	21/2		
Milwaukee	4	10	.286	51/2		
Chicago	2	12	143	71/2		
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Southwest Division	W	L	PCT	GB		

Chicago	2	12	143	71/2		
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Sauthwest Division	W	L	PCT	GB		
San Antonio	15	3	833			
Dallas	12	6	.667	3		
Houston	7	11	389	ı.		
Memphis	8	12	.333	9		
New Orleans	-1	14	.067	121/2		
Northwest Division	W	T.	PCT	GB		
Seattle	15	3	.833			
Minnesota	11	5	688	3		
Denver	9	7	563	5		
Portland	8	.7	533	51/2		
Utah	- 8	9	471	61/2		
Pacific Division	W	L	PCT	GB		
Phoenix	13	3	.813			
Sacramento	11	- 5	.688	2		
LA Clippers	10	7	.588	31/2		
LA Lakers	10	7	588	31/2		
Golden State	_ 4	12	250	9		

Raptors' worries pile up

CLEVELAND-Toronto Ali-Star forward Vince Carter has food poisoning and sat out Saturday's game against the Cleveland Cavaliers, further limiting the bickering and mad weary Raptors.

Carter, averaging a team-high 16.1 points per game, became ill early in the morning after arriving at the team's hotel from Finday's game in Boston. He stayed behind to rest and didn't join the Raptors for their fourth game on a six-game road swing.

His absence was the latest upheaval for the Raptors, who are still dealing with coach Sam Mitchell's benching of Loren Woods and Rafer Alston in the second half against the

Mitchell yanked the pair after they were each charged with technicals rate in the third quarter, aiding Boston's comeback in a 91-89 win. The first-year coach was highly critical of his players afterward, calling their conduct "inexcusable."

Matchell kept Woods and Aiston out of the starting lineup Saturday but said the two would play.

"it's over," Mitchell said before Saturday's game. "It's dead and it's time to move on. I'm not going to

won't tolerate behavior that could cost his team a win.

"I got upset," he said. "Players get upset. You have to have a short memory in this league."

Alston hasn't forgotten the episode and was so upset that he threatened to leave the team and quit the NBA altogether.



CLEVELAND-Drew Gooden scored 27 points and LeBron James had 27, his final field goal coming on a monstrous dunk that sent the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 105-97 win Saturday over the feuding Toronto Raptors, who didn't have Vince Carter

"That took the life out of them," Gooden said. "I knew he was going to dunk it. What did you think he was going to do?"

Gooden added 15 rebounds and Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who made their fina, four shots and their last six free throws in the final three minutes to put the Raptors

It's still early in the season, but James likes his team's lofty status.

"I'd rather be in first than last," said James, who added 10 assists and six rebounds.

The Raptors played without Carter, who came down with food poisoning shortly after the club arrived from Boston. Carter stayed back at the hotel while his teammates tried to regroup one right afper coach Sam Mirchell benched Rafer Aiston and Loren Woods during the second half in Boston for picking up costly technical fouls.

in East Rutherford, New Jersey, Eric Williams scored 21 points as New Jersey shot a season-ingh 54.4 percent in a 109-88 drubbing of Atlanta that sent the Hawks to their runth straight ioss.

The game matched the Nets' league-worst offense (81.7 points) against the Hawks' league-worst defense (102.3)

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Steve Smith scored 20 points and hit two clutch shots in the final three minutes as Charlotte overcame a 41 point performance from Jamai Crawford to trip New York, 107-101.



Crawford shot 17 of 25 but managed just four points in the final quarter and missed his last five shots. He also had a numover with 44 seconds left, and the Knicks trailing by four.

In Orlando, Florida, Grant Hill had 23 points and seven assists, and Orlando Magic took advantage of Memphis' sloppiness to carve out a 96-91 decision.

time in six games, put itself six games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2001-02 season.

In New Orleans, Ben Wallace made nine of his first 10 shots and finished with 22 points to lead Detroit to an easy 92-69 victory against New Orleans, which is yet to win at home in eight tries.

Wallace had 11 first-quarter

points, including a pair of alley-oop dunks, as Detroit took an early double-digit lead and never looked back.

In Washington, Gilbert Arenas scored a season-high 34 points, and Larry Hughes padded his NBA lead with seven of his team's 17 steals as Washington beat Chicago, 95-88.

In Milwaukee, Tim Duncan's 20 points led San Antonio over Milwaukee, 104-83, to improve the Spurs' record to 15-3 for the best start in franciuse history.

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki followed up his 53-point outburst. with 30 points and seven rebounds as Dallas roated Utah, We

In Houston, Tracy Mc-Grady had 17 points, in- st cluding the wirming basket with 25 seconds to play, as Houston rapped Philadelpha, 77-76, to end a fivegame losing streak.

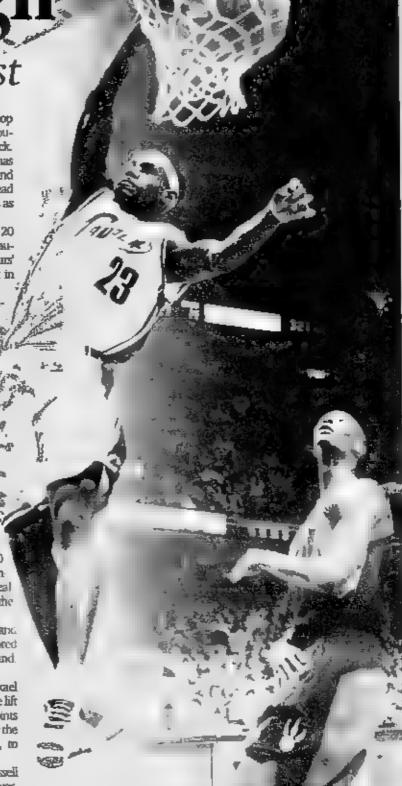
Marc Jackson hit two free 24 throws with 37 seconds left to put Philadelphia ahead, 76-75. McGrady then hit a 20-foot 🚶 jumper for the final lead.

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 28 points to surpass 2,000 for his career, and Denver conmiled Miami's Shaquille O'Neal with constant double-teams on the way to a 104-95 triumph.

In Seattle, Rashard Lewis and Vladimir Radmanovic each scored 20 points, and Seartle beat Portland. 99-89, to improve to 15-3.

In Oakland, California, Mickael Orlando, by winning for the fifth Pietres gave Golden State just the lift it needed, contributing 15 points and six rebounds off the bench as the Warriors beat Indiana, 104-96, to end a four-game losing streak.

In Los Angeles, Sam Cassell scored eight of his 30 points in overtime and Kevin Garnett added 22. and 15 rebounds, helping Minnesota to its lifth straight victory with a 107-100 decision over the Clippers. AP



LEBRON James soars for one of the dunks he stuffed in during Cleveland's game against Toronto. His last slam, teammate Drew Gooden said, "took the life out of [the Raptors]."

Castillo labors to keep crown Hot Lonard claims 3rd LAS VEGAS-Mexico's Jose Luis Castillo straight title

retained the World Boxing Council lightweight titte Saturday, rallying in the late rounds for a split decision over Joel Casamayor at Mandalay Bay Events Cen-

Judges Dr. James Jen Kin, Carol Castellano and Dave Moretti all gave the 30-yearold Castillo (51-6-1) the last three rounds.

"He was difficult as expected, but by the eighth, ninth rounds I knew this was my fight," Castilio said. "He was very fast, but not as fast as expected."

Casamayor, the former WBA super featherweight champion in his first title fight as a lightweight, was clearly the better fighter early. He found the range early with left hands and kept circling away from danger. But Castillo eventually caught up with the 33-year-old Cuban challenger.

7 am very disappointed," Casamayor said. "Of course, I thought I won. I was able to fight my fight and he never hurt me. He was easy to hit "



JOSE Luis Castillo lands a left punch on Joel Casamayor.

COOLUM, Australia-Australian Lonard won his third tournament in as many weeks Sunday, shooting a 7-imder-par 65 at the Australian PGA for a two-shot victory over third round leader James Nitties.

Lonard fought a daylong battle with American Bob Estes and former amateur Nitties, an Australian who was playing in only his fourth professional tournament. Estes took the lead when he chipped in from the bunker on the par-4 10th, but Lonard pulled even with a birdle on

Estes fell one behind when he bogeyed the par-3 11th, and Lonard, who came from five strokes back to win the Australian Open last week, birdied the tough par-4 16th to give him a two-shot cushion over the field.

Nitties, who had a one-shot lead over Estes after both the second and third rounds, finished with a 70, Estes also had a 70, including a bogey on the last, to finish in third.

Unheralded

But Mitched did, explaining that he benched his players because he Jimenez captures Hong Kong Open

Jimenez won his fifth cournament of the year with a one-shot victory at the Hong Kong Open on Sunday.

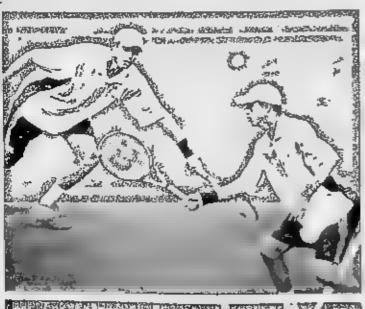
Jimenez, who carded a final round 66 for a 14-under-par total of 266, held off a spirited challenge from Irish ace Padraig

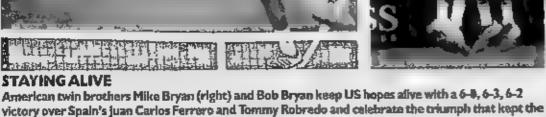
HONG KONG-Spain's Miguel Angel Harrington and James Kingston of South Africa who finished joint second on 267.

The 40-year-old has enjoyed the best year of his career, finishing fourth on the Volvo Order of Merit with wins at the Johnnie Walker Classic, Algarve Open, Asian Open and BMW Open and being

part of the triumphant European Ryder Cup team.

Harrington, who made a 20-foot birdle last year to win this tournament, could not repeat that feat this time, missing a 15-footer that would have force Jimenez into a playoff.





Americans alive in the Davis Cup finals. See story on A34.

for hosting rights KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia-Turkey won its bid Sunday to host the 2010 basketball world championship,

Turkey bags vote

narrowly edging our France, the sport's governing body

Three finalists-France, Turkey and a combined bid from former Yugoslav republics Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia-Montenegro and Slovenia-presented their bids to 19 representatives of Fiba's 20-member Centrai Board in Kusia Lumpur, Malaysia.

Fiba president Carl Men Ky Ching announced that Turkey won after a secret

In the first round of voting, France received eight votes, while Turkey had seven and the combined hid got four votes, said Florian Wanninger, Piba's

communications manager. Turkey won the second round of voting, receiving 10 votes against alne for

Mehmet Atalay, Turkey's general director of youth and sports, said his country expects to spend about US\$100 million (euro74 million) to boost its infrastructure for the 2010 event and another US\$60 million (euro45 million) for other

associated costs.

driver beats Schumi PARIS—Ferran's Michael Schumacher failed to

make the final of a charity contest to find motorsport's champion of champions on Saturday

Schumacher, the most successful driver in Formula One history with seven world titles and 83 race wins, was beaten by up-and-coming Finn Heikld Kovalainen who then went on to outpace France's world rally champion Sebastien Loeb in a final showdown.

However, the German are did beat Loeb in a special face-off between the two champions.

Kovalainen, a 23-year-old Renauk development driver, has tested Pormula One cars but

"It's crazy I didn't expect this," he said after the charity event in Paris' Stade de Prance that involved head-to-head heats in raily cars, Ferrari Modern sportscars and dune buggles.

Organizers had billed the event as "a unique showdown to help settle the argument of who is the world's best driver."

"I managed to beat David Coulthard at the beginning and when I beat Jean Alesi, I decided to go for It and I beat Michael Schumscher," said

De la Cruz, **EYambao** rule

RIO DE LA Cruz of the University of the Philippines needed one hig burst of energy near the finish line to narrowly beat La Salle-Dasmatihas bet Alquin Bolivar yesterday Burlington 10K for the main Scrown of the Burlington Shock XT 10K Classic at the

Rajah Sulaiman Park in Manila. Liza Yambao of University of Santo Tomes was a cut above the rest in ruling the distaff race.

Both clocked 31 50 minutes in the race organized by the Media Rumners and Sports Promo-

tions for Burlington Industries

Ben Alejandrino of UST finished third in 32:20.

Yambao timed 40:06 minutes in bearing Gloria Diaz (42:57) and Mary Anne Bucog (43.14).

PHILRACOM GRAND SPRINT

Easy does it for Arriba King

By Edwin Villanueva, Contributor

ARRIBA King proved he still is the fastest in local racing yesterday by easily cruising to victory in the 2004 Philracom Grand Sprint Championship at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

The 6-year-old bay horse was simply too strong in the 900-meter race, outclassing his two rivals that jockey Jonathan Hernandez found no need to punish him with the whip anymore.

"Kusang-kusa ang utnakbo kaya hindi ko na ginamitan ng latigo (He just ram on his own, so I didn't use the whip)," said Hernandez, whose highly touted mount cornered P1,260,729 in daily double sales out of P1,350,962.

Despite meeting feeble opposition from Sa-

turned in a sizzling time of 51.5 seconds over a track listed as fast. The Alymar Carta Nueve progeny submitted fractions of 6-21.5-24, setting a new track record in the process.

The win was worth P300,000 for the Arceo Stable which rejoiced only a week ago when Arriba King, coming back from a seven-month layoff, topped the SMB-Marbo Breeders' Cup Sprint for a record third straight year.

"Sa klase ng itinakbo niya pwede pa uli siya next year (With the way he ran, he is still good the day piloted longshot Windlass to first place in the Christmas Festival.

Just like in the last Marho BC Sprint, Sacred Hall, handled by Dominador Borbe Jr., tried to inch close to Arriba King but could not do so, set-

cred Hall and Gallant Warrior, Arriba King still tling for second again, five lengths off the winnet Gallant Warrior, with Pat Dilema aboard, landed third and last, two lengths farther adult.

in the other featured event, import Being There humbled former Presidential Gold Cup champion Free Wind by two lengths in the Roberto Reverente Cap over 1,600 m.

Being There, a 4-year-old chestnut mare sired by Distorted Humor out of Panfare Bubbles, got an excellent ride from Eldy Salvador to complete the wire-to-wire romp for the Red N Stable.

Windlass, owned by Philtobo president Bienfor next year), "added Hernandez, who earlier in venido "Nonoy" Niles Jr., shot past Blazing Maldini nearing the home turn to prevail by two lengths over Alexa's Magic in the race also held over 1,600 m. Flying Jordan placed third.

Being There timed 1:40 flat, while Windlass

Briones entries lead 'Apordabol' finalists

NEWSPAPERMAN Rey Briones continued to dominate the local derby scene with his famed Spartan Red lines of flighting cooks, breezing through last Saturday's elimination round of the 4-day "incredibol Na. Apordabol Pa 5-Cock Derby" with his entries. Spartan's R8 & R8 Diamante (with Erwin Diamante), at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Hosted by Rolly Ligon and presented by Thunderbird Power Feeds, the *- derby resumes at 3 p.m. today with the conclusion of the qualitying mends leaturing the last set of 90 entries. Dong Lacson, who bagged the lastest-kill award during last Thursday's opener, again came up with a perfect score through his entry. Bone Cutter, white Australia-based Romano Pedroche (Glenorie Back-Lip) and partner Jos Mojeno rose to the occasion by easily directing a berth in the #hals set this Wednesday. A P2-million guaranteed cash prize and a 3-door Pajero are up for grabs for the winners. Also landing in the winners' circle are day charmpions Roderick Reyes (Richard Medalist), Roger Segismundo (RS Fairview I)., enginear Pajarillo (JMCSP), Darwin Torrs (Sherwin), Ronel Tanada (Ella), Peter Uren (Star Cross Farm), Daniel Jimenez (Babad Boys), Benjie Lim (Singi: Lang and Biglaan). Efren Antalan (Butterliy), James Lly (JM Lista), Boy Jalandoni (BJ Sniper), Resto Pangillinan (Don Simeon), Junior Dequilla (Pasaway), Popoy Ong (Roy and Cris) and Madison Go (Master of the Ring).

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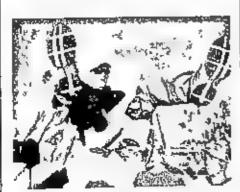
GAMES TOMORROW (Atakati Coliseum) 2 p.m.—Toyota-Oils Latran vs Welcoat 4 p.m.—Granity Goose vs. Magnolla-FEL

sonville in the gridinon encounter Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

PN--AFC power Pittsburgh batties Jack-

WHAT'S INSIDE

AMERICAN FOOTBALL NFL-Steelers vs Jaguars; 9:30 a.m. (r-4 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.), ES-



■ Arizona football champions bring message of hope /A34



Westwood takes lead after sweltering day

Good defense pays for top PBL squads

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE OLD and worn-out coaching dictum goes: Defense is the key.

plurase has found a legimmate argument.

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Approaching the homestretch of the climination round, the league's top teams have shown that even with see-cold offense, you can

And in the PBL Open Championship, the still work your way to the upper part of the standings by playing good defense.

And where does that put offense? As puzzling as it may be to figure out, the best shoot-

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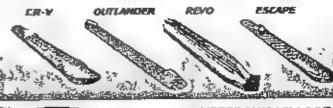
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STUART Appleby (center), Lee Westwood (left) and Appleby's caddie, locate Appleby's nearly lost ball.

Westwood takes lead after sweltering day

UN CITY, South Africa—Stuart found the ball. Appleby of Australia came within 30 seconds of being penalized for a lost ball Saturday as he surrendered the lead at the Nedbank Challenge to a steady Lee Westwood in sweltering conditions.

His second shot to the 18th hole plunged out of sight in the thick kikuyu grass face of a sand trap guarding the green at the 7,162-meter (7,835 yard) par-72 Gary Player Country Club

T saw the TV guys looking becaused as I walked up and I knew there was trouble," said

An increasingly frantic search followed and, eventually, playing partner Westwood's caddle

In fact, it was Westwood's second caddle for the round after his regular bagman, Mark Bell, was taken from the 14th fairway to the course medical facility with heat exhaustion as temperatures soared to 36 degrees Celsius (97 degrees

"The ball was buried so deep, I had to mark it to be able to play it," said Appleby.

He managed to shoot it out to about 20 feet and sank the putt to save par.

In temperatures Westwood described as the hottest he had played in, he shot a one-underpar 71 to take a one-stroke lead over Retief Goosen at five-under-par after the third round.

Only former US Open champion Jim Puryk gave any impression of taming the course, firing a 66 which was all finesse on the green and in-

cluded eight birdies, with bogeys at 11 and 14. He moved to joint sixth with Ernie Els.

Appleby said: "You have to coax a good score out of this course. The putter has got to do the talking, and Jim's round showed that grabbing the course by the scruff of the neck is not going to

Appleby's round of 74 meant he slid back to third, three-under-par, as South Africa's US Open champion Goosen shot a steady 71 to move within a shot of the lead.

Goosen, who has been fighting a cold for three weeks, still did not feel well, but said he thought he was on the mend.

Westwood's round started with three bogeys in the first four hotes.

"I'm a fairly patient person and a lot can hap-pen on this golf course," he said. AP

Myskina, Safin bag top awards in Russia

MOSCOW-French Open champion Anastasia Myskina has been voted Russia's female player of the year by the panel of tennis journalists, coaches and officials.

Australian Open runner-up Marat Safin won the men's award.

The Russian Tennis Federation announced the winners at its annual gala ceremony on Saturday

Myskina became the first Russian woman to win a grand slam title when she beat compatriot Elena Dementieva in the French Open final in June.

23-year-old Muscovite capped a phenomenal year for Rassian tennis by leading her country to their first Fed Cup title last week in Moscow.

Myskina won both of her singles matches in the final against ho.ders France before teaming up with Vera Zvonareva to clinch the tie 3-2 in a dramatic victory in the deci-

Sweep



sive doubles.

Russian women have swept the last three grand slam titles in 2004, with 17-year-old Maria Sharapova lifting the Wimbledon crown and Svetlana Kuznetsova winning the US Open.

Not all seem to be getting along, however. Myskina was recently critical of the actions of Sharapova's father following a victory by the popular teenager.

Myskina went as far as saying she would not join any Fed Cup squad with Sharapova as a teammate.

Safin reached the Australian Open final in January, losing to Roger Federer, before suffering a mid-season slump. However the 2000 US Open champion won back-to-back Masters Series events in Paris and Madrid to finish the year at number four in the world.

Russia's Fed Cup team scooped the team of the year award.

Arizona football champions bring message of hope

By Francis Ochoa

JIM Rattay remembers how it was being an orphan owning nothing more than three pieces of coins and an indefatigable hope for a better life.

"I had three pieces of coins and I put it in a rag and I buried it under a tree," said the Phoenix Christian High coach.

"And once a month, I would go out to them and just touch them and bury them again. I couldn't do anything with them, but I thought ! had, like, a piece of gold, something that I could hang on to. They were all I had."

The coins were the symbol of the

Now 56, Rattay is a successful coach, having steered Phoenix Chrisnan to back-to-back state championships. His son, Tim is a starting quarterback with the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL.

And you'd think with all these, Rattay finally earned the right to let out a hearty and vindictive hatha. No.

Just the other day, Rarray sloshed through the muck along the Marikina river and surveyed the devastation left behind by four storms that hit the country recently.

"It didn't look good," said Rattay. "Tve never seen such poverty, such little means. And yet, I saw happy faces, people were still enjoying life."

Rattay, his fellow coaches and a few players, are in the country under the Feed The Need program, spreading more than just nourishment to the less fortunate people.

With him are George Zaksek of the Don Stewart Association and his son. soccer player Jonathan; Phoenix assistant Bob Bruce; Scottsdale Christian Academy's Larry Bandura, Will Munsel, Scottsdaie's starting quar-

terback and an all-state



DEVASTATED by storms, Marikina's children get a much-needed assist.

basehali player, dentist Morgan Tyner; teach people new habits." Cliff Weston, a football player who suf-

Their objective is not just to feed the less fortunate, but to also improve their amrude and outlook in life.

"[In Phoenix], we had a ream that didn't think it could win a champtonship because the players did not have the belief," said Cottrell. "But when you create a goal, create new habits, you break down barriers in the mind. If you can do that in a football team, you can do that in other areas of life."

"Here, we go out and give them: food. But what about tomorrow? We won't be here tomorrow. We hope to

The group, though very much Westfered a Christopher Reeve-type spinal ern in culture as proven by their pasinjury but worked his way back; and soon for American football, is guided by wisdom from the Orient: Give someone fish, he is happy for a day. Teach hum to fish, he is happy for the rest of

> Rangy said at the start, the sight of all the hardstups startled the young players who ragged along the trip. "Everybody was shocked. You can't be rold reality. You can only live reality."

Before the trip, the kids raised money on their own. Devoid of fat contracts and endorsement deals, the players passed tin cans and collected coms. They raised enough money to not only bring 10 people here, but also buy food, pencils, toys, candies and other useful stuff.

And the group feels the kids get more than what they put into the project.

"After what they see here, their lives will be changed forever," said Cottrell.

"We can only give a little bit and we can't change their lives completely." said Bandura. "It's our lives that change because our kids, they remember that for the rest of their lives. It's kinda selfish in a way because we do God's work and actually benefit from

In a way, Ramay has given other less fortunate kids their own three pieces of

COACH Jim Rattay (left) builds champions on the field—and off it. DAVIS CUP

Bryans give US a chance

SEVILLE, Spain-The Bryan twins saved the United States from a quick exit from the Davis

Bob and Mike Bryan defeated the Spanish pair of Tommy Robredo and Juan Carlos Perrero on clay Saturday, winning, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2, to leave Spain with a 2-1 lead going into Sunday's deciding reverse singles in the best-of-five final.

The Spanuards are trying to match the only Davis Cup they won four years ago, and the United States is trying to win its 32nd, but its first

The Bryans won the first set in 27 minutes, with their teammates leaping off the bench to celebrate hard-won points.

Playing before another seliout crowd of 27,200 at Olympic Stadium, the Spaniards settied down in the second with both teams broken once in the first four games.

But, with the United States leading 4-3, the Americans again broke Spain, and Bob Bryan served out the set. The Americans broke Spain in the first game

of the final set, setting them on course to take the match in one hour, 39 minutes. "The US brothers are great players in dou-

bles," Spanish captain Jordi Arrese said. "They are great specialists. Our faith is to win (Sunday) and finish with a 3-1 result." The Spanish players were cheered on by

Prince Felipe, the hear to the Spanish throne, and his wife, Princess Letizia. The prince has a degree from Georgetown University, but there was no doubt about which team he supported. Arrese named Perrero Saturday to play dou-

bles with Robredo, replacing 18-year-old Nadal. Nadal was called in for Ferrero in Friday's singles. Ferrero only managed to hold his serve once

in the three sets. He is finishing the worst season of his career, which included a broken rib and a bout of chick-

en pox. Ferrero is a former world No.1-ranked player and a French Open champion. "It was a difficult game against the best dou-

bles players," Ferrero said

Nadal on Friday defeated American No. 1 Andy Roddick in four sets. Nadal won, 6-7 (6), 6-2, 7-6 (6), 6-2 and Carlos Moya opened by beating Mardy Fish, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3. On Sunday, Moya is set too play Roddick in

the opener with Fish and Nada, playing the second singles match. Only one team in Davis Cup history has come

back from a 2-0 deficit to win the champtonship-Australia in 1939 over the US. Roddick has a 3-0 edge on Moya in career

matches, but all of the victories have come on a hardcourt surface.

Chelsea puts pressure on football rivals

LONDON—Arsenal dropped the goalkeeper that. kept it unbeaten through 49 league matches Saturday as it beat Birmingham 3-0 in the Premier League, while Cheisea and Manchester United also posted comfortable wins.

The Gunners dropped German keeper Jens Lehmann and replacement Manuel Almunia kept Arsenal's first clean sheet in 14 matches. Arsenal scored off two Thierry Henry goals and another from Robert Pires

Chelsea stayed on top, five points clear, with

a 4-0 win over Newcastle. Manchester United beat Southampson 2-0 off second half goals from Paul Scholes, Wayne Rooney and Cristiano Ronaldo. Everton snatched a 3-2 win over Boiron thanks to a

Radhi Jaidi own goal with five minutes left. In other Samiday matches; Aston Villa 1, Liverpool 1; Norwich 0, Fulham 1 and Portsmouth 3, West Bromwich Albion 2. Blackburn hosts Tottenham in the late mutch.

Everton 33 and Manchester United 30. On Sunday, it's Crystal Palace-Charlton, Monday's game is Middlesbrough-Manchester City. At Highbury, Arsenal manager Arsena

Wenger dropped Lehmann for the first time since he arrived at Highbury last July from Borussia Dortmund

Lehmann, 35, hadn't kept a clean sheet in 13 games over two months, conceding 17 goals-but has only lost twice in 53 league

Arsenal, with a 10-4-2 record, has let in 20 goals thus season.

Almunia had previously only started three League Cup ties for Arsenal. He started despite letting in Manchester United's winner in the first minute in the Gunners' League Cup quarterfinal loss on Wednesday.

He didn't have a shot to save in the first half, but nearly let in a speculative volley from Clin-

Chelsea has 39 points, with Arsenal on 34, ton Morrison in the second-the ball shpped through his fingers, only for him to recover it just before it rolled over the goal line.

Arsenal had only made six points from its previous six matches, which saw its five point lead at the top of the standings disappear. Pires gave Arsenal the lead in the 33rd

minute, collecting a mis-hit clearance in the box and slotting it past the far post. Henry scored twice in the final ten minutes.

At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea notched up its second consecutive 4-0 league win. Newcastle kept Chelsea quiet in the first half, but second half changes by the Blues led to goals.

Didier Drogba set up Frank Lampard for the opener in the 63rd, with the roles switching for the Prenchman to net six minutes later. Arjen Robben added the third with two minutes remaining, before Mateja Kezman scored his first league goal for the club by converting an injury-time penalty.



CHELSEA'S Mateja Kezman (left) tries to score from an overhead ldck against Newcastle United during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London.

So heads RP Team to Asian meet



WESLEY SO is rated highly in his division.

By Roy Luarca

WHAT he failed to do in the world arena last month, whiz kid Wesley So will try to accomplish at the Asian level this time.

So, who settled for 13th place in the boys' 12-under division of the 2004 World Youth Chess Championships, will spearhead a lean Philippine team competing in the Asian Youth Chess Championships slated Dec. 10-18 in Singapore.

The 11-year-old So is rated highly in his division having won the Asean Youth edition held in Vietnam last August and finishing ahead of his fellow Southeast Asians, including Singaporean Fide Mas-ters Daryl Tsui-Hern Wong and Terry Zheng Yuan Chua, in the World Youth meet held in Crete, Greece. Wong landed

122 bets.

So, a fifth grader at St. Francis of Assisi-Bacoor whose FM title is being held in abeyance, gained prominence when he bested International Masters Petronio Roca, Ronald Dableo and Chito Garma in this year's National Open men's finals.

Proving that his feat was no fluke, So is also making heads turn in the ongoing 2004 National Inter-Cities and Municipalries with his superb play while marning Board 4 for top seed Tagaytay City A.

Joining So in the team being fielded by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines are Luzelle Dacayo in the girls' 10-under, Jedara Docena in the girls' 12 -under and Randolf Dalauta in the boys' 14-under.

If Chinese prodigies Zhao Nan, Ding Liren and Liu Qingnan decide to join the

49th while Chua finished 71st among Asian Youth, however, it will be an uphill mance in Greece, has again designated climb for \$6.

That's because they finished ahead of So at 1st, 2nd and fourth, respectively in the boys' 12-under of the World Youth. Ding beat So in the fourth of the 11round event.

Chardine Cheradee Camacho, also a Promil endorser like So and fifth placer in the girls' 10-under division of the World Youth, won't be able to join Team Philippines as she needs to catch up with her lessons at the Aringay School of Science, Arts, Technology and Trade.

Prince Mark Aquing, a prized find from San Nicolas, Pangasinan, who also placed 13th in the boys' 10-under of the same World Youth, however, may yet make it as an extra player.

NCFP president Go Teng Kok, satisfied with the Filipino youngsters' perfor- for the third placer.

NCFP director Willie Abalos to act as head of the Singapore-bound delega-

Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Bugene Torre, Garma and Petronio Roca will also fly to Singapore to join the open tournament which will be held simultaneously with the Asian Youth Chess Championships.

Antonio, who plays Board 1 for Tagaytay A, and Torre, Asia's first GM who skipped the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities, are also expected to figure prominently in the title race after lifting the Philippine men's team to 19th place in the 36th Chess Olympiad held in Calv.a, Majorca, Spain.

At stake is \$3,000 for the champion, \$2,000 for the second placer and \$1,000

FEU Tamaraws grab UniGames overall crown

FAR EASTERN University cap- Tams' feat by winning 12 gold tured three team championships and placed second in three other events to take the overall crown setting five UniGames records. in the 9th National University colod recently.

The Tamaraws competed in eight events, including the cengeneral standings over runner-up De La Salle University and third placer University of the Philip-

The Morayta, Manila-based athletes collected 25 of the 40 gold medals at stake in track and field with sprinter Sharon Gizmundo winning seven gold medals.

Brightest star

Gizmundo, the brightest star in the team coached by former national athlete Dano de Rosas, ruled the 100-m, 200-m and 400m races and anchored the Lady Tams to Impressive victories in

in all, FEU's crack female athetes bagged 13 gold medals, three of them via new meet records in the two-day competi-

The men's team, coached by Cito Andaya, duplicated the Lady

medals, seven of which were secured by Jeffrey Lozande, and

The UAAP champions Tama-Games (Un.Games) held in Ba- raws also dominated the men's volleyball compension, sweeping all its seven games for the title.

Coach George Pascua's charges terpiece athletics, and topped the topped its group in the eliminations and went on to wrap up the crown with a straight-sets victory over Cebu's University of San

Lady Archers triumph

La Salle, the reigning UAAP women's champs, foiled an FEU twin kill by upending the erst while unbeaten Lady Tams in the dramatic women's voileyball title

College of St. Benilde beat FEU, 3-2, for the crown in women's table tennis.

"The whole university is proud of the success achieved by the teams, especially with FEU's already strong showing in the UAAP," said FEU athletic director Mark Oliver Mouna.

"FEU's impressive performance at the UniGames only showed the school's enduring strength in sports and athletic development."



Philippines defenders during a recent game. The Flight may be one of the two best offensive teams in the PBL Open but they don't do well in defense.

Good defense pays for top PBL squads

ing teams are right at the bottom of the eight-

The ICTSI-La Salle Archers are hitting a relatively torrid 46 percent cup from the floor while the Air Philippines Flight sport a 43.5 percent

Combined, though, the two teams have won just five games so far in the conference.

That's one less win than what defending champion Magnolia-FEU, Montaña Pawnshoo and Granny Goose have piled up. Each.

And this despite the fact that the three are ranked at the bottom in field goal percentages. The Wizards are dead last with a 39.4 percent

clip. The Jewelers are just a shade better at 40.4 percent and the Tortillos are at 42 percent. The three teams, though, have found a way to make up for it, shutting opposing squads down

in the defensive end. Magnoba-FEU limited its opponents to only 61.3 points per game, followed by Weicoat—which has four wins—at 68.1 ppg.

And the dispanty is huge when compared to Air Philippines, which allowed other teams to score 80.3 ppg. KTSI-La Salle gave up 78.4 ppg.

The top three reams also dominated rebounding. Magnohia PEU averaged 23.7 rebounds per game, Montaña Pawnshop grabbed 20.6 rpg, followed by Granny Goose at 20 rpg.

Granny Goose and Welcoat also led the league in blocks at 5.5 bpg, while Montaña was tops in steals at 8.6 spg.

About the only offensive statistic helping out the top teams right now is the assists department. Welcoar averaged 15.6 apg, while Granny Goose and Magnolia FEU took the second spot



MUATHAI MARVELS: Lightweight Jerson Estoro (third from left) and middleweight Robert Burnina-Ang (fifth from left), champions in the First World Martial Arts Cup held recently at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, pay a courtesy call on Senate committee on sports chair Sen, Lito Lapid. Sixty top martial arts practitioners from 17 countries competed in the championships. Lapid pledged his support for Muzythai whom he described as a "potential gold medal source for the country in next year's Southeast Asian Games." With Estoro and Burning-Ang are (from left) team coach and RP representative to the World Masythai Federation Brico Santig, team manager Ed Dames, trainer Not Bassig, adviser Joseph Gadit. and World Tong-II Moo-Do Asia president Dr. Venus Agustin.

Fornier, Matutina top Boracay tilt

Lloyd Matutina took low-gross honors in the 5th Chairman's Golden Cup golf tournament held at the Farways & Bluewater Golf and Country Club in Borscay, Aklan, recently,

The tournament, held in honor of FBGCC chair Noel "Tott" Cariño and backed by Globe Telecoms and Pocsports, drew over 100 players.

The other winners were Bernardo Capa in the

JOEY Former emerged overall champion and Pairways division (members), Don J. Padilla in the Bluewater division (guests and sponsors), Smokey Kim in the Pirates division (system 36 format) and Claudine Ang in the White Beach di-

> Finishing second were Efren Capa in Rairways, Don A. Padilla in Bluewater, Marcus Cerveny in Pirates and Clarita Tan in the ladies

over ref bribe bid

LISBON-The chief of European champions Porto was questioned on Friday as part of an investigation into alleged at-

tempts to influence referees. Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa, the Porto chair, arrived voluntarily at a courthouse in Gondomar to answer questions from police.

He was formally detained on arrival, questioned and released more than three hours later

TSF radio said Pinto da Costa was released on condition of reporting periodically to police and remaining in the Porto area. He will have to return to court on Tuesday, the day when they host England's Chelsea in a Champions League match.

A police or court spokesman was not immediately available to comment.

Four referees and an agent were detained on Thursday for questioning in HELSINKI, Finland-Berlin was the "Golden Whistle" investigation into named the venue for the 2009 world attempts to influence match officials.

Officers of the Judiciary Police searched the Porto offices as well as a Pinto da Costa home on Thursday, Lusa news agency reported. The club chair had been in Spain at the time. Retiters

Police quiz Bautista defends title Porto chief vs South African Jan. 8

By Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

WORLD Boxing Organization Asia-Pacafic bantamweight champion Rey "Boom Boom" Raurista will defend his titie against Zolani Mbelekane of South Africa on Jan. 8 next year at the au-condiffered Mandaue City Sports Complex.

International promoter Samson Gelto-ani rapped the durable Mbelekane to challenge Bautista after Pan European champion Matt Powell backed out.

Gello-ani forged the deal in Cape Town, South Africa, where his lighter Bert Barawang scored a sensational seventh round knockout of hometown hero Sipthembele Kibiti recently.

The 18-year-old Bautista, couned as the country's "next Manny Pacquiao," is being pined against Mbelekane to find out. Albia at the Waterfront Hotel in 2001

his true strength, according to Gello-ani.

"Bautista has beaten boxers from Indonesia, Korea, Japan and Thalland," said Gelio ani. "It will not do him any good to fight another Asian. A highlyrated African like Mbelekane should brung the best out of hum."

Managed and trained by Colin Nathan, who owns the Hot Box gym in Johannesburg, Mbelekane is South Africa's No. 5 junior bantamweight contender and parades a 13-8-2 win-lossdraw record with 6 stoppages.

African boxers are known for their mughness and durability. They have won over the likes of Randy Suico and Wyndell Jansola

The last African to fight in Cebu was Lawrence Ngoberti who drew with Tirso

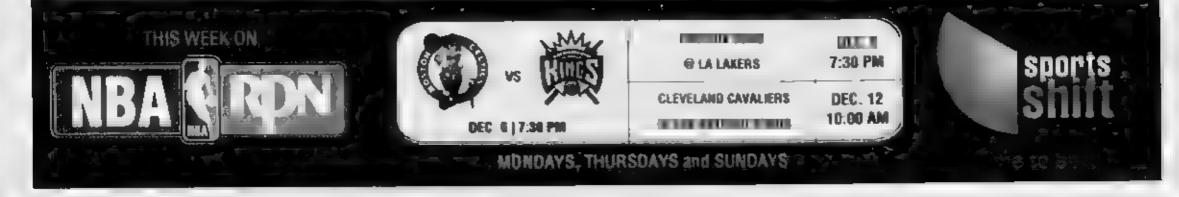
Berlin gets right to host 2009 world athletics championships

track and field championships Saturday by the International Association of Athlenes Federations.

The German capital beat the two other European cities; Valencia in Spain and Split, Croatla.

The vote, during a weekend meeting of the IAAF Council, was preceded by audiovisual presentations from each bidding city and a summary of the IAAF's evaluation team.

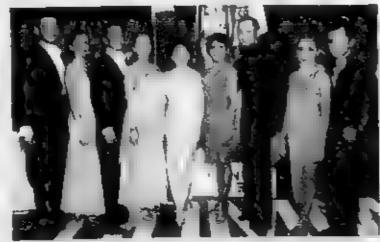
Berlin lost bids to host the athletics championships in 1991 and 2005 Heisink, hosts next year's edition. AP





RP dancesport bets picked for SEA Games

Standard category pairs (from left) Emmanuel Reyes-Matra Rosete and Rico Rosima-Filomena Salvador and Latin category tandems (starting sixth from left) Belinda Adora-Michael Mendoza and Dearlie Gerodia-john Erolle Melencio pose with Dance Sport Council of the Philippines president Becky Garcia after the dancers were selected to represent the country in next year's Southeast Asian Games, Garcia said all four pairs are heavily picked to bag gold medals in the Games.





YOUTH CHAMPS: Reynato Rener Mercado and Judith Anne Melencin won the Youth Standard title of the 8th DSCP National Championships held at the PhilSports Arena recently. They are shown with DSCP president Becky Garcia, outgoing POC president Celso Dayrit and Petron Corp president Khalid Al-Faddagh.

NAT'L TEAM CHESS

Maynila B, Dasma finish 1-2 in elims

Final elimination round rankings:

6.0-Maynila B; 5.5-Dasmerthas (Cavita); 5.0—Tagaylay City A, Muniiniupa City (Alabang); Captilan (Surigan Del Sur): 4.5-Marikina City 4.6- Mandaluyong City, Tanauan City. Makati City, Manifa (Philippine Navy), Maynila A. Quezon City, Muntinlupa City (Office of the Mayor); 3.5-Cavite City, San Fernando City (La Union); 3.0-General Santos City, Calamba City, Baguid City. RP Womens' Team; 2 5-Manita (San Sebastian College), Tagbilaren City (Bohol), San Fernando City (Pampanga), Tagaytay City B, Baccorr 1.0--Los Baños City; 0.5—Tuguagarao City: 0.0—RP Astan Youth Team

TAGAYTAY CITY—Maynila B stunned touted Tagaytay City A, 2.5-1.5, in the seventh round Saturday to top the elimination round of the 2004 National Inter Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championship at the Tagaytay Sports Center here.

Asian zonal champion Internationa. Ronald Master Dableo and Noel Dela Cruz defeated IM Richard Bitoon and Jerome Balico on Boards 2 and 3, respectively, as the fifth seeded Maynila B barged into the semifinals ahead of third seed Dasmannas.



Maynila B finished with 6.0 points while Dasmariñas, whose stint is supported by Philippine Chess Master Association head Boy Pobre, wound up with 5.5 following a 3.5-0.5 rout of 12th seed Manula (Philippine Navy)

"Nagpumilit kanung manalo, turget kasi nemin na makapasok na agad sa semifina. round (We persevered to win because our target is to reach the semifinal round early)," said Dableo.

"Iba na s'yempre yung walting ka. At leas makapagpapahinga kami bukas ng umaga (It's different if you're already waiting. At least we can rest tomorrow [Sunday] morning)."

The semifinal round of the event organized by the National Chess Pederation of the Philippines, starts at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Antonio held to a draw

Grandmaster Rogelio "Joey" Antonio, Tagaytay City As top board player, settled for a draw with IM-candidate Darwin Laylo in a tense Board 1 encounter

Elevert-year-old Wesley So scored Tagaytay's lone win at the expense of Carlo Magno Rosaupan on Board 4

"Babawi kami (We'll be back)," said So, who helped Tagaytay City A beat second seed Mandaluyong City, 2.5-1.5, in the fifth round and 4th seed Maynila A, 3-1, in the sixth

Tagaytay City A got stuck at 5.0 points, the same output of 13th seed Cantilan (Suriguo del Sur) and 6th seed Muntinlupa City (Alabang) Alabang beat Muntinlupa City (Office of the Mayor), 3-1, and Makati City (PriManila Plans Inc.), 2.5-1.5, respectively.

Marikina City last to semis

Eighth seed Marikina City settled for a 2-2 standoff with Maynila A, but earned the last semifinals seat with 4.5 points.

Marikina City well clash with Tagaytay City A in the semifinals of the tournament sponsored by the Tagaytay City government headed by Mayor Abraham "Bambol"

Cantilan, a first-timer in the semifinals, is slated to face Muntiniupa City (Alabang)

IM Petromo Roca, NM Oliver Barbosa and Raymond Salcedo provided the victories in Dasmarihas' 3.5-0.5 conquest of Manila, represented here by the Philippine Navy chess team, in the seventh round.

Basilio Pandan, on the other hand, scored Munitalups-Alabang's victory that clinched HS 2.5-1.5 win over Makati City. Bernardino, Contributor

Alay kay Mayor tourney registration Dec. 11-12

REGISTRATION for the 2004 Inter-Barangay and 5th "Atay Kay Mayor Marides Carlos Fernando" 2050 and below active chess tournsment gets under way on Dec. 11-12 in Marikina City. For inquiries, call tournament organuzing committee chair Johnny Gaudia at 0919-626-8874 or tournament arbiter NM Rudy Ibañez at 0920-846-0780.

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Perpetual Warrior

After all these years, Director Gil Portes is still very critical of prevailing systems in the local movie

industry,

and very

serious

outspoken

about what

filmmakers

should do.

"IF YOU cannot make it in your own country. go abroad," says Direk Gil, here shown with a 2003 Urlan Award for "Munting Tlaig."

Contributor F FILMMAKING were a war, internationally acclaimed Filipino di

By Bayani S. San Diego Jr.

be a guerilla in the order of Che Guevara. Assertive, even combative, Direk Gil has very strong opinions on almost everything under the sun and is not afraid to make them

rector Gil Portes would

In contrast, his films-which cover a wide gamut of subjects, emotions, and geographies, from "Merika" to "Mulanay"—are lyrical in their subtlety and sadness. Then again, that is the hallmark of a Portes production.

in his owns words. "My movies are very simple, but complex at the same time."

Define 'independent'

irst, Direk Gr. gives us a lesson on Philippine film history. To define the much bandiedabout term "independent," he situates it in a historical con-

"There is really no (rigid) definition," he says. "For all intents and purposes, all Filipino movies are independently produced. In the heyday, and even after the heyday, of the studio system, there was a very strong organization of movie producers, the PMPA (Philippine Movie Producers Association). It's still there, but it's no longer active. There was another organization, the IMPIDAP (Independent Movie Producers), which was animated by Regal It's no ionger around, either So all movies in the Philippines are being produced independent-

Except that there are dominant players in the industry.

There will always be dominant players, but they no longer report to an organization," he points out "Before, booking was done through these organizations. That is not the case

Half a shoestring

He insists: "Independent filmmaking doesn't have to be lowbudget or cheap." And to emphasize: A good independent film can be produced with anywhere between P3 million to P100 million as investment

His "Munting Tinig," "Homecoming," and "Beautiful Life," for example, cost merely P6 to P9 million Compared to P17 milhon for Maryo J. delos Reyes' "Nagialayag" and P30 million for Mark Meiley's "Crying Ladies," that is not even a shoestring budget, that's half a stringl

On the other hand, two of Direk Gil's upcoming projects, "Bells of Balangiga" and "Her-mano Pule" "will be expensive because they are period, historical films." Thus, his definition is not based on budget or the lack

'An independent film does not adhere to prevailing formulas for a commercial movie, not only in terms of the modes of production, but also in terms of content and structure," he

Always different

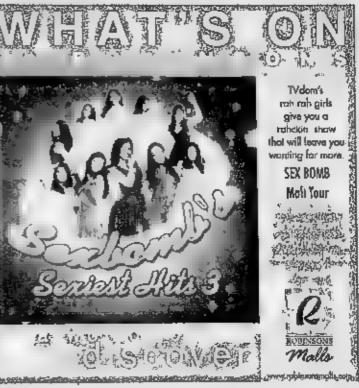
In a lot of ways, this describes Direk Gil's body of work, "My films are always different," he asserts. "They're not like a Star Cinema or a Viva Firms produc-

If one were to search for a common thread in the Portes canon, it would be bonesty.

He explains: "My films are grounded on real issues, real evenis.

The late Ishmael saw Direk Bernal Gıl's debut Tiket Mama, Tiket Ale. . Sa Linggo ang Bola" in 1976.

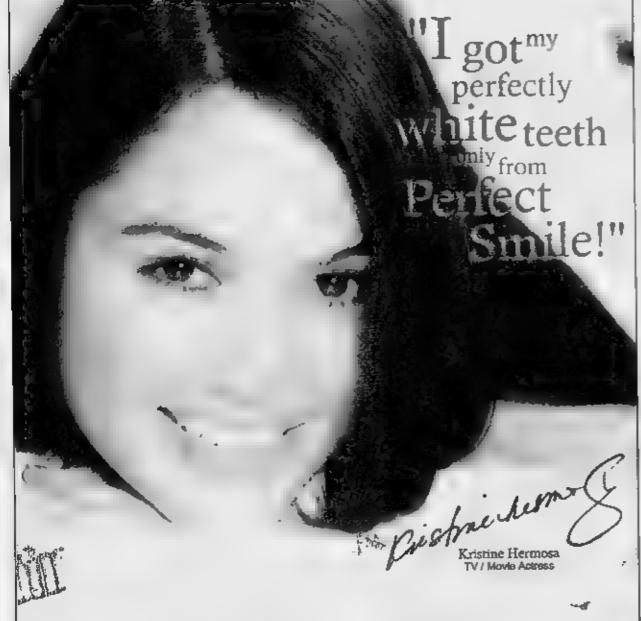
"He told me: You





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to make an alterna-

tive film.' That is why,

until now, I try to

make movies that are

warrior

From page A37

PORTES with Alessandra de Rossi in "Munting Ting," a movie he is "very proud" of

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different." He is just as happy about some other

achievements. "I am proud that 'Munting Tinig' was bought by US distributors. I am proud that "Saranggola," "Gatas sa Dibdib ng Kaaway" and "Munting Timg" were submitted as the country's entries to the Oscar Awards. I am proud that a sample boy like me from Pagbiao, Que-

Heed." Not just here at home, he means, but also abroad.

zon, is now being no-

Top achievement

All the entries in the Oscar Best Foreign Language Film category are invited to the Palm Springs International Festival. "Munting Tinig" won the Audience Award there, tying with Germany's "Nowhere in Africa," which won at the 2002 Oscars.

But the achievement that he is most proud of is his family -his wife and two kids-based in the

In turn, his audience and followers, in turn, treasure him for his sometimes cutting. Ponfernies hilarious, but always minitable, opinions on industry issues.

Following some of them.

On the Metro Manila Film Festival: "To avoid all controversies... go back to the original rule: (To be considered as an entry) the film, not just the script, should be finished. It's not a scriptwriting contest. And make sure deadlines are met."

On the movies charned out by the MMFP: "I have yet to see a film that won Best Picture at the Metro Manila Filmfest in the last five years, except 'Crying

On the planned Quezon City Film Festival: "I hear they will give 100 percent tax rebate to the enmes. Thar's encouraging.'

On the ailing local film industry: "Ir's dead."

On government support for the film industry: "You cannot depend on government because It's bankrupt."

On what can be done: "Daring directors and adventurous producers... if you cannot make it in your own country, go abroad, to international festivals and hope that your film will be picked up by foreign distributors,"

That's Gil Porces, still lighting and feisty, after all these years. "I am always struggling. That is important."

Seemall!

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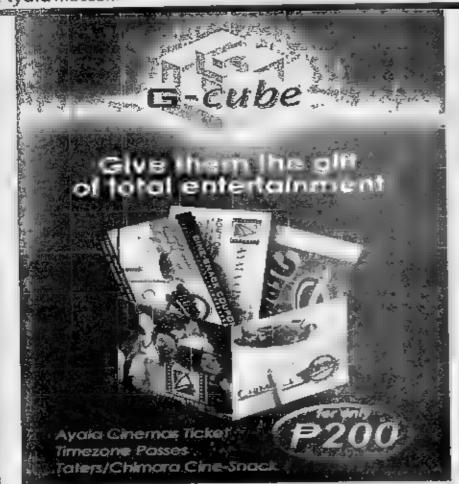
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Ladies,' that was appreciated abroad."

When 'horrific' becomes terrific

EVER since Chito Rofio's comeback film, the "horrific" "Feng Shui," made a terrific killing at the box office earlier this year, many producers have been Nestor churning out horror movies, in the hope of replicating Roso's

Alas, most of those attempts have ended up as duds, which is what usually happens whenever cinematic copycuts do their

The xerox copies of Rono's super-chiller follow the same chilling, thrilling formula, but they lack one important ingredient: Roffo himself.

The point is that "Feng Shui" clicked with viewers in a big way because it was made by Rono, with his unique sensibility, training, expertise and knowledge of audience psychology.

combination of attitudes and aptitudes, so their movies are hollow to the core. You want anoth-'er scary super-hit? Get Chito Roño.

Unfortunately, like other sigutficant filmmakers, Roño doesn't like repeating himself. But he does like adjusting the challenge to another medium, so ABS-CBN is truly fortunate to have gotten him to transfer his "talent for dwarfs. Jesse (Joseph Bitang-

VIEWFINDER

thrilling" from the movies to the TV screen, by way of Channel 2's new weeknight teleserye, "Spir-

U. Torre

Other adjustments are also forthcoming: While the new series deals with the supernatural, it places its spooky situations within the new context of a youthful adventure show, reminiscent of Roho's "Spirit Warrior"

In fact, "Spirits" has been conceptualized by Roffo as a prequel to those movies. It dramatizes the complex transition of chil-The copycats don't have that dren entering their teenage years, with the added enverglement of their being given psychic powers. Even better, the youths are charged with having to figare out how to use their powers to help others.

For instance, Lloyd, the character played by John Wayne Sace, can see dead people. Liz (Serena Dalrymple) is a mind-reader.

Nato (Jiro Manio) speaks with

col) can start fires. And Maya (Michelle Madrigal) can empathize completely with other

The group is led by Red (Rayver Cruz), and other teen characters include Gabby (Maja Salvador) and Ther (Mico Ay-

Even better, the series boasts of gifted adult actors like Ricky Davao, Lotlot de Leon and Cris Villanueva.

It's clear that Chito Roho is doing everything he can to make "Spirits" a hit on TV, just like "Feng Shui" was on the big screen. Let's hope his calculated gambit works.

If the new telescrye clicks, it'll give its young stars' careers a big boost. So, they too have a lot riding on the show's success. -Maybe they can use their psychic powers to help the series' fortunes along?

Feedback

FROM Ivy Rama of Butuan City: "Your column on Ellipinos' penchant for being funny was an eyeopener, especially when you went into the psychological dimension of our jokes and humor. I myself am most concerned about the dirty lyrics of songs that are now being played on the radio, or per-

"The lyrica engage in doubleralk, but it's clear what they're really about, most of it related to sexual matters. Since children are watching and listening, these double entendre lyrics should not be heard on radio and TV, particularly during the day and in the early evening. Our radio stations and TV channels should be more vigilant and responsible . . . "

'Star Wars' trailer

FANS can now get a look at the trailer of "Star Wars, Episode III. Revenge of the Sith." It is being screened during intermission at theaters where "The Polar Express" is being shown.

"Reveage of the Sith" takes place two years after "Attack of the Clones." Anakın Skywalker and Padme Amidala are married. The Republic is at war with Count Dooku's Confederacy of Independent Systems, and Darth Sidious is preparing to make the final move that will ensure him control of the galaxy.

With its nearly endless supply of clone soldiers, the Republic is gaining ground against the Confederacy. Determined to avoid defeat, Dooku places a bounty on

EVERYONE wants to do a "Feng Shul," Kris Aquino's biggest hit to date.

the Jedi Knights, who have already come under fire from the Republic itself.

When Anakin turns to the Dark Side of the Force and joins the genocidal purge, Obi-Wan Kenobi must fight to protect Padme and her children as he heads toward a tragic showdown with his former

Reprising their roles in the movie are Hayden Christensen, Natalie Portman, Kwan McGre-

gor, Christopher Lee and Samuel L. Jackson.

'Hyper Drive'

IN A BEHIND-THE-SCENES "Ultimate Discovery* programming event, "Hyper Drive" on Discovery Channel (from today until Dec. 10 at 10 p.m.) shows viewers how master mechanics tear familiar machines down in order to build them back up to prototypes unlike any other.

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ENTERTAINMENT DECEMBER 6, 2004

Shrek 2' an Oscar favorite

ANGELES-"Shrek 2," the computer-animated biockbuster about a green ogre's quest for

inner beauty, led the field of film nominees announced on Friday for the People's Choice Awards, selected by the public.

storybook satire, which grossed \$436 million at the US box office to rank as the year's biggest commercial lut, garnered nominations in virtually every movie category, including a nod for favorite film

The other favoritefilm nominees were Michael Moore's anupolemic "Fahrenheit 9/11," superhero adventures "The Incredibles" and "Spider-Man 2," and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," a quirky tale of love and memory loss starring Jim Carrey.

"Shrek 2" clinched nominations for favorite movie comedy, favorite film sequel, favorite animated film and favorite animated stars (Michael Myers as Shrek, Antonio Banderas as Puss in Boots and Eddie Murphy as the Donkey)

Public vote

"Spider-Man 2," the year's secondhighest-grossing film with \$373 million in US ticket sales, joined "Shrek 2" in the race for favorite sequel, along with "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," "Harry Pot-ter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," and "Kill Bill: Vo. 2."

"The Incredibles," the hit film about a family of superhero suburbanites, also received multiple nominations, including bids for favorite animated movie and animated film stars (Hotly Hunter as Elastigirl and Samuel L. Jack-

son as Frozone) Unlike the Oscars and other enterrainment awards, in which nominees and wanners are selected by industry peers, the People's Choice Awards are determined by the public.

In previous years, polling for awards was conducted by the Gallup Orgamzation. This year, Entertainment Weekly magazine recruited a group of 6,000 readers to nominate their favorites.

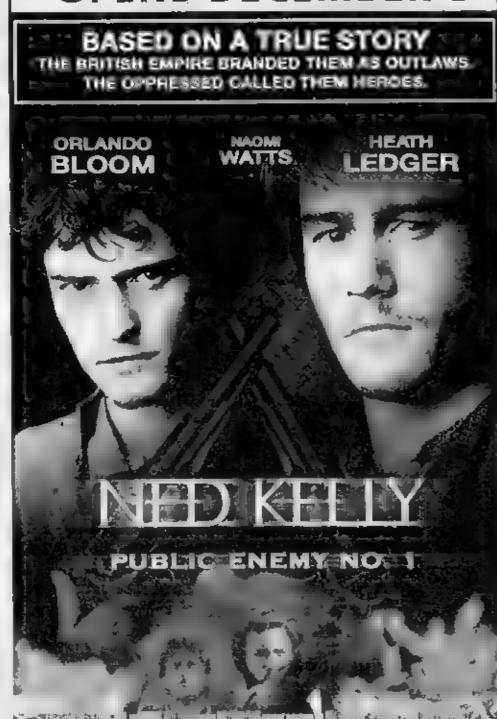
The top five selections for each categoty become nominees.

Winners will be chosen by the majority of online votes cast at the Web \$108 http://www.PCAVote.co organizers said. Winners will be announced Jan. 9 in a ceremony televised on CBS. Reuters

DID You KNOW.,.

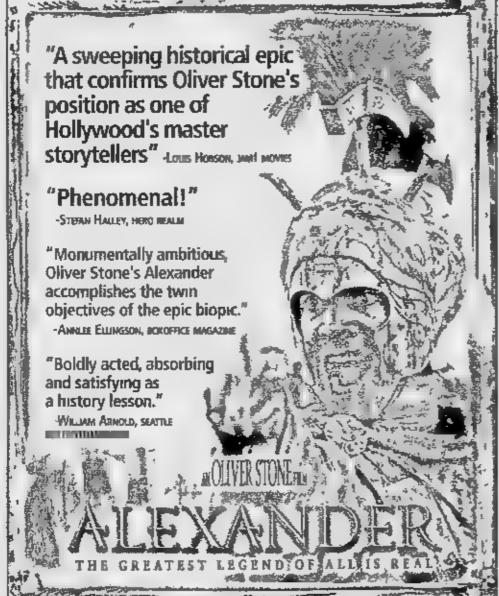
"Protein shakes and biting weights and rode horses and did the boot camp thing for three weeks. Yeah, it was grand, man, I enjoyed it." Colin Parrell, on preparing for his role in the new Oliver Stone film, "Alexandez."

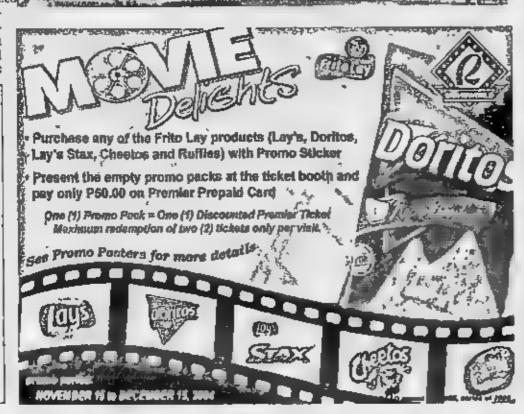
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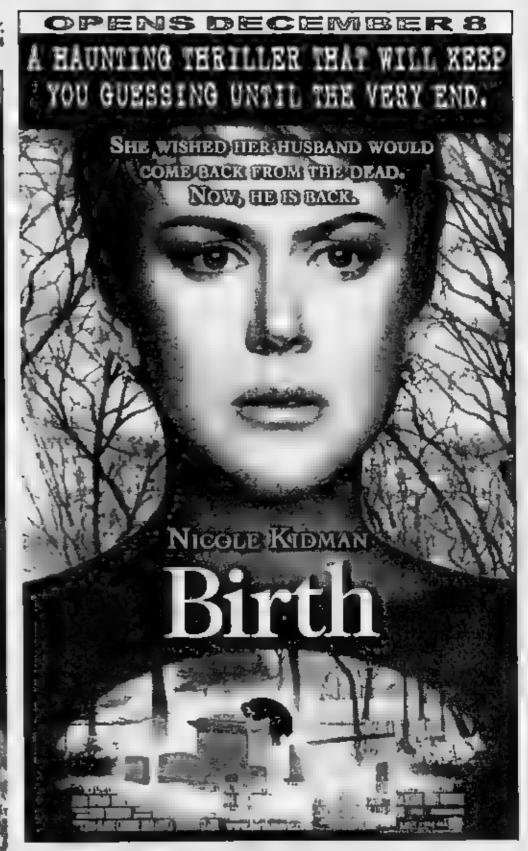




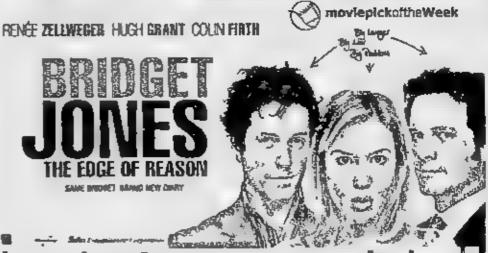
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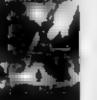
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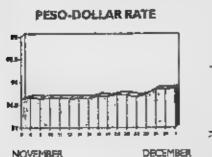
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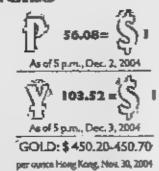
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INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, RIC.

December inflation seen topping





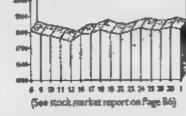


STOCK MARKET

Mining stocks seen taking trading limelight

IT LOOKS like another alongish week ahead, but some analysts are entimistic mining and oil shares may continue to shine.

Mining shares surged last week on news the Supreme Court ruled to uphold the Mining Act, which allows foreign investments into the mineral explo-



However, Grace Cerdenia of online brokerage 2TradeAsta.com said the market might continue to trade within a narrow range this week "until investors see other significant catalysts."

She said sentiment might get a boost from talk of a cut in oil prices possibly this week and if Congress approves more revenue-raising ra-

forms to aid plugging the government's budget deficit. The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange composite index (Phisix) rose a mere 2 89 points to 1816.99 week-on-week.

The stock market only traded three days lest week after bank cleaning and stock trading were suspended last Friday due to super typhoon

warnings. There was no trading tast Monday due to a national holiday. Despite the shortened week, the mining index soared 511 9 points or 24 percent last week to 2638.61.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday overturned its previous suling that prevented foreign companies to fully own mining projects

*The pro-business decision of the Supreme Court may provide some incentives to trade. However, we still expect the main index to just continue consolidating with a positive bias in the coming sessions. Inspiration may also come from a strong overseas markst," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc.

By Doris C. Dumtao

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PRICES of consumer goods are seen shooting up further in December to more than 8 percent as food supply bottlenecks caused by the recent typhoons aggravate pressures from Christmas spending sprees.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the year-on-year inflation rate this month would likely rise past the BSP's forecast of 7.2-7.6 percent for November using the 1994 base year for the consumer price index (CPI)

"Clearly, it will be higher," Buenaventura said.

"I suppose it (typhoon) will have an impact on food prices, but that's transitory," he said

In October, the national inflation rate hit a five-year high of 7.1 percent, bringing the year to-date average to 5.1 per-

"Fortunately, oil prices have softened," the BSP chief said.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said the institution would first see the report on the damage caused by the typhoons to quantify its impact.

Over the past two weeks, the country had been battered by a series of weather disturbancesgrorm "Unding," tropical depression "Winnie" and most recently, typhoon "Yoyong."

In a separate interview, Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas estimated that the supply side disruptions caused by the recent ty-

phoons would jack up the inflation rate by one or two percentage points.

Historically, Ravelas said such weather disturbances had a signuficant impact on the country's inflation rate, as food comprised a large part of the consumer price

"It affects not only the price of the food products but also transportation costs. Services are disrupted so there's usually a sudden surge in prices," Ravelas

"Add this to demand pressures from Christmas spending, so I think inflation in December will reach 8 to 8.5 percent (using the 1994 base year)," Rave.as said

For November, Ravelas said he was expecting the inflation rate to reach 7.5-8 percent.

prices in the country has so far year.

been the skyrocketing oil prices. Even a visiting International Monetary Fund mission had expressed concern over the sharp rise in inflation in the Philippines, suggesting the need for monetary tightening soon

The BSP has conceded that its 4-5 percent inflation target range would be breached this year and next, but was expected to stay on track with the three-year target range in 2006. It hinted at the need to tighten its monetary policy by January next year, at the

Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve is expected to raise its key interest rate by another 25 basis points to 2 percent when it meets on Dec. 14. The BSP has so far desisted from following the US Feri's tightening, keeping its own rates The biggest threat to consumer at the same level since July last

Palace orders bidding of MRT-3 extension project

By Clarissa S. Batino

MALACANANG has decided to bid out the extension of the Metro Rail Transit system from North Avenue in Ouezon City to the Balintawak Monument in Caloocan City, a senior transportation offi-

The Palace has also decided to scrap a supplemental agreement signed by the government years ago with Fil-Estate-led Metro Rail Transit Corp. that called for the awarding the project to the con-

general MRT-3 manager Roberto Lastimoso said the Palace had directed the Department of Transportation and Communication to bid out a new

build-operate-transfer (BOT) that it asked Malacañang and the in the bidding. contract for the five kilometer link-up of MRT-3 to the Light Railway Transit (LRT) Line 1 in Monumento.

& Co. has already submitted a proposal to the DOTG. Fil Systems Corp. has also offered to do the railway project for \$230

"it is Malacañang that has decided and ordered the DOTC about three weeks ago to come up with the bidding terms. We were told that another justice department opinion is no longer necessary," Lastimoso said in an interview.

MRTC, a consortium including Ayala Corp., had said in October He said MRTC could participate

justice department to reconsider its offer to undertake the expan-

MRTC president Robert John He said the group of FF Cruz Sobrepeña said that allowing the consortium to do the link-up of MRT-3 to the LRT Line 1 would be cheaper and faster as the group had proposed to do the extension for \$191 million.

The MRTC official warned that the government would rebid the project, it would be more expensive and take a longer time to complete.

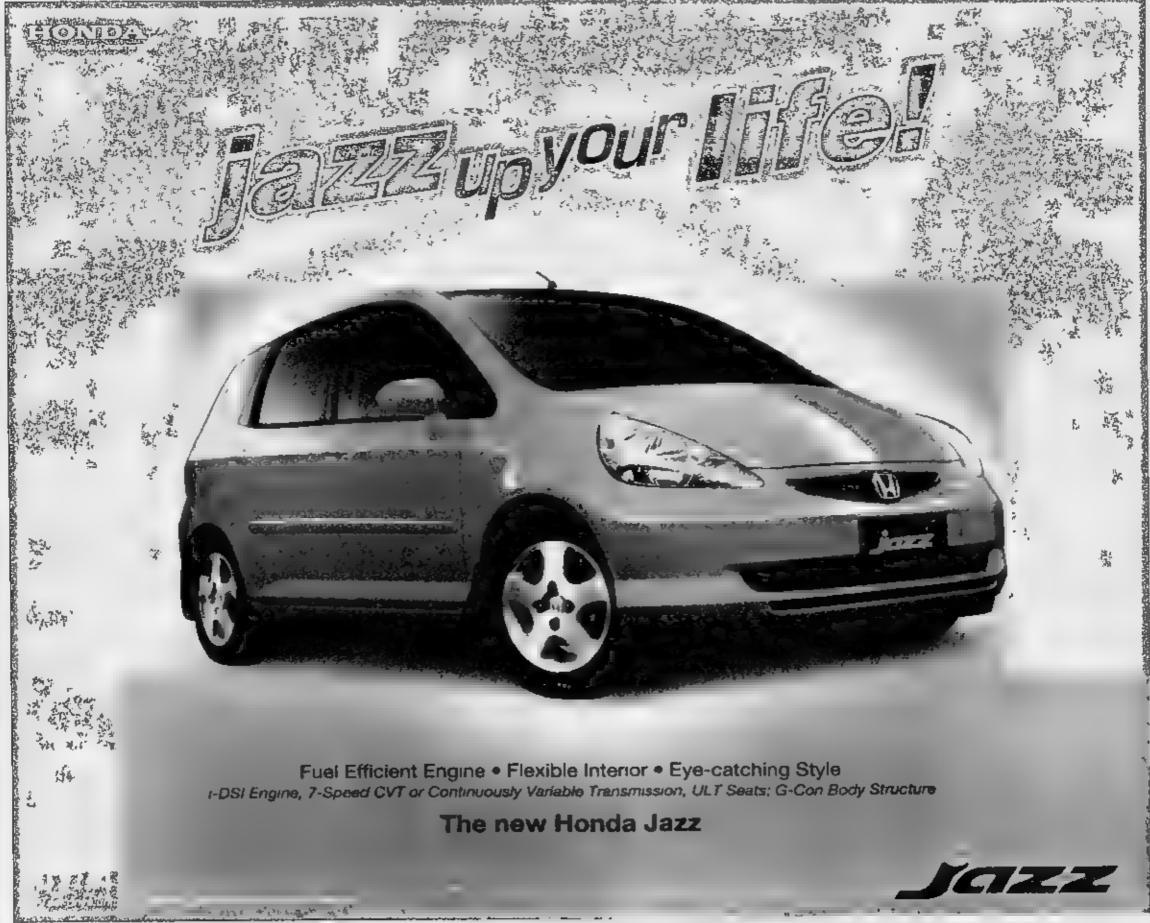
Lasumoso said the FF Cruz group had a different design for the project, which could be the reason why the bid was higher.

The much delayed project is essential to complete the metro railway loop. It would ease commuters' travel and allow them to move from one line to another with greater

LRT 2, which runs from Santolan in Pasig to Recto Ave. in Manila, would be connected to LRT 1 before year's end through the Doroteo Jose station, LRT 2 connects with MRT 3 through the latter's Cubao station.

Close to 800,000 commuters use the three railway systems each day and of these, 400,000

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ONE OF the major reasons we can fondly look back to the 1990s as a time when our country enjoyed internal economic stability and dynamism was that President Ramos had redirected our embassies, consulates and honorary consuls abroad to put top priority on economic diplomacy then. That is, apart from ensuring the welfare of overseas Filipino workers wherever they were deployed, our foreign missions were directed to put their energies and resources to seeking and seizing opportunities for increased trade, tourism, investment, development cooperation (a euphemism for official development assistance or ODA), and economic intelligence. The last refers to the gathering of information from both formal and informal sources that may have relevance to our economic opportunities abroad. This includes identifying economic policies and measures in our embassies'

> host countries that may be material to international trade and investment negonations (e.g. in WTO)

Beyond that, our mussions foreign were also directed to tap groups of highlyskilled expatriate Filipino professionals to assist in the efforts to upgrade out technological capabilities through various Science and Technology Advisory Councils (STACs) that were organized in key foreign posts abroad. Programs to attract highly skilled FilNo Free Lunch

Cielito E Habito

spinos to come back home either temporarily or permanently were put in place. Not a few expatriate Filipino experts did come back to take advantage of both the incentives offered for their rerum, and of the increased attractiveness of working in their home country due to a new-found economic dynamism.

Economic intelligence

I recall how in my days in the government, I was struck at how some of the visits I received from foreign officials and diplomats made me feel like my guests were engaged in some kind of an intelligence-gathering exercise. I was particularly impressed at how the aides of certain visiting foreign officials usually appeared to be taking copious notes of our meeting. A later incident made me realize how these notes were being made good use of by my visitors.

In one official visit I made to a foreign counterpart in his home country. I was surprised at how my host brought up a particular subject I had almost forgotten about, that came up in an earlier visit to me not by that official, but by another colleague in his government! It became clear to me then that information gathered in courtesy calls to our officials by foreign visitors had been effectively shared across ministries within their government. I wondered then whether our diplomats and government officials traveling abroad had the same objectives in mind as they visited government counterparts abroad. This was exactly the implication of President Ramos' directive on economic

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d.plomacy, if it was to be taken to heart by all concerned.

New foreign policy directions

In a recent forum, the Ateneo Center for European Studies brought together government officials and intellectuals for a two-day roundtable discussion on world trends and new directions for Philippine foreign policy. One of the major outcomes of the discussions was the recognition of the need to refocus our foreign powcy on economic diplomacy.

It is not enough that President Arroyo acts as salesperson for the country in her visits abroad, just as President Ramos was acknowledged to be the country's most effective salesman in his time. Everyone down the line, from our government officials visiting abroad to our diplomats deployed abroad must do, nist as well.

Non-traditional markets

Both short-term and longer-term opportunities could shape the nature of our economic diplomacy efforts in the years ahead. In the short term, the apportunities presented by China's rapid economic growth are already before us, and have already benefited us to some extent. That we exported more to China last year than we imported from them makes as one of the few countries in the region that are actually getting a net benefit-so farfrom the much-feared China juggernaut. This will not necessarily happen by itself without conscious efforts on the part of government, particularly in our diplomatic initiatives with that country.

Similar opportunities remain untapped in emerging economies in Central and Eastern Europe. We have remained too focused on Western Europe, which has actually sold on much of our exports to them faither east, when we can deal with these countries more directly ourselves. The same is true with Cen-

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December 6, 2004

PIC to put up cold storage facilities WITH BEDSORES? By Ronnel W. across the country.

Domingo

THE NATIONAL Development Corp. is planrung to shell out at least P1.2 billion to put up a chain of coid storage and food terminal facilities, which are hoped to improve food production and harvesting

NDC will undertake the project through its yet-to-be

incorporated subsidiary, Philippine Infrastructure Corp. Trade and industry consultant Noel Kintanar said the so-

called 'cold chain' would cover food producing regions from Northern Luzon to Mindanao. "Ar least six cold storage facilities costing P200 million each

will be built Cordillera, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Western Visayas and either Northern or Southern Mindanao," Kintanar said, The projects are ex-

pected to help improve storage and shipment of food products and, consequently, help establish stable supplies, he said. Kintanar said NDC

had yet to identify the specific project sites. He added that the cold chain project was still in the planning stage.

This was the second project lined up

for PIC, which aims to put up a P100-billion portfolio of 10 projects within six years.

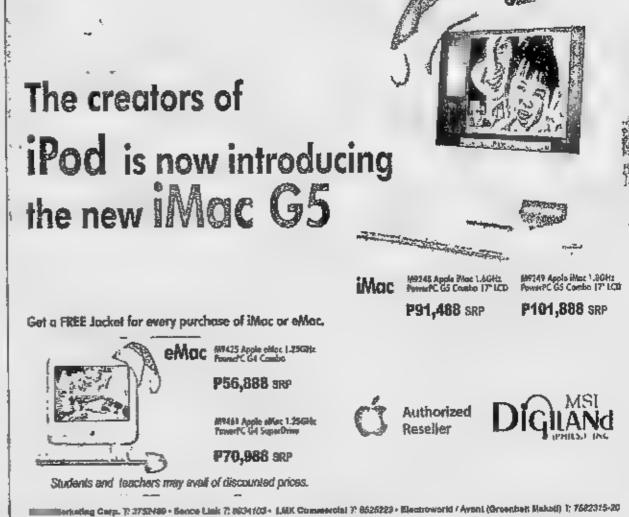
The first project identified for PIC was the P10-bidion enhancement of the South Luzon Expressway-Southern Tagalog Arterial Road road systems.

The package covers the rehabilitation of the Alabang viaduct, the widening of Slex, from Alabang stog Calamba in Laguria and the connection of Slex from Calamba to Star in Sto. Tomas. ! Batangas.

Foreign business groups have complamed that poor infrastructure facilities. in the country made. doing business here less competitive than in other countries.

For instance, the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines had asked the government to allow 100 percent foreign ownersh.p of ad; public utilities as a ! way of developing infrastructure.





BUSINESS

US Treasury exec urges opening up of RP banking sector

By Michelle V. Remo

A US Treasury official urged the Phiappines to speed up efforts to develop its banking industry to take advantage of the expected increase in giobal demand for fi-

nancial services. Randal Quaries, US Treasury assistant secretary for international affairs, said latest discussions by members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) were centered on the potentia, boost to economic growth by liberalizing the financial

Citing a World Bank study, he said developing countries with open financial sectors experienced higher economic growth compared with those whose banking indusmy lacked foreign direct investments.

For this reason, Quaries said, the United States was encouraging WTO members, including the Philippines, to develop their financial sectors, such as by adopting stable and transparent regulations.

"A healthier and more efficient financial sector is also critical to assuring long-term growth," Quartes said in a press briefing last Fnday.

The US treasury official mer last week with Philippine economic officials and legislators to get an update on the local economy, particularly on the fiscal problem confronung the govern-

He suggested that the Philippine govern-

firmly the issues concerning the huge nonloans

performing (NPLs) of banks that have been a drag on their liquidity, and the relatively weak supervisory power of regula-

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier reported that the NPL ratio of universal and commercial banks in September slightly rose to 19.9 percent, from 13.86 percent the previous month.

The higher NPL ratio was a result of the

drop in total loan portfour of banks.

Quarles recommended that the Bankgo Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) push more aggressively for granting of enough legal protection to bank regulators so that they could act appropriately on insolvent financial institutions without fear

One of the legislative agenda of the BSP is to put more teeth into its power to intervene in distressed

of facing law suits.

ment address more NPLs, and the slight regulators from suits in the exercise of their

This requires amend- charters of the BSP and ments to the general Philippine Deposit Inbanking law, and the surance Corp.



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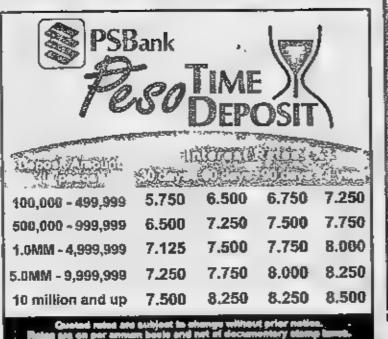
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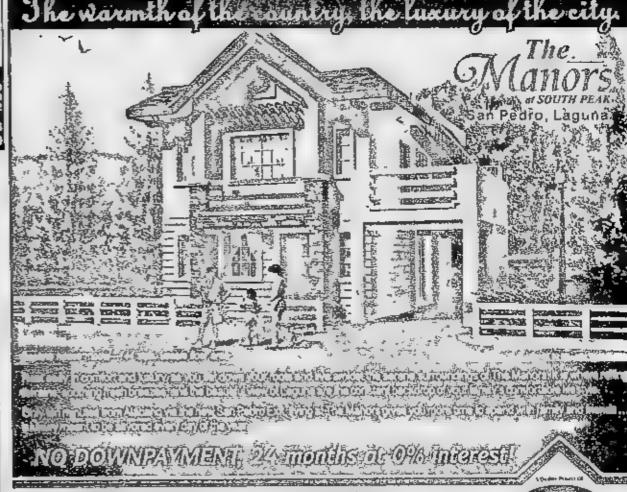






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END OF ERA

Meralco eases toward open access

By Abigail L. Ho

AS ITS monopoly on end-user power supply comes to an inevitable end, the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. said it would begin implementing the open access regulation upon removal of all the cross-subsidies except the lifeline rate discount for marginalized customers.

Meralco chair and chief executive Manuel Lopez said the power distributor was well aware of Meralco's changing role in the deregulated power sector. This was why the power firm's board recently passed a resolution that would allow the

users the option to choose their own power supplier, thus limiting Merakov's franchise obligation to distribution services.

The Energy Regulatory Commission in October ordered the removal of 40 percent of inter-class cross-subsidies for Meralco customers. The remaining 60 percent would be scrapped by October next year.

Cross-subsidy removal is one of the conditions set by Republic Act No. 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), for the implementation of open access.

Lopez said Meralco was supportive of the government's thrust to fully im-

bunching up from this year to 2006.

Meralco last month secured its creditors' approval to refinance \$235 million in loans, extending the maturity dates falling in 2004 up to 2006, by another seven years, or up to 2011.

The power distributor's creditor-banks included 32 institutions from the Philipcines, China, Germany, India, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and the United States.

With the refinancing out of the way, Meralco can concentrate on adjusting to the new environment brought about by the Epira," Lopez said. "The recent

about \$235 million worth of loans. Meralco's credit normalcy, although it imposes an additional interest burden on our shareholders."

Interest expense cannot be passed on to customers. This has to be shouldered fully by Meralco's stockholders.

Meralco missed some market windows for cheaper funds due to delays in certain creditor consents, but chose to conclude the refinancing agreement to help enhance the country's investment climate, particularly in the energy sector," Lopez explained

Meralco's recent refinancing deal enhanced not only the firm's credit standing but also the investors' perception of

How's your English?

"Engush writes, QUESTIONS speaking (in the OF POLICIES Philippines) is mostly a myth ... while English capability is still widely acknowledged as one of the key advantages of its workers, thus is mostly a myth based on historical record, not cur-

rent reality." Honesto C. He is not the only one worried that the General Filipino is losing his

competitive edge as the Chinese, Koreans and

Taiwanese are frantically learning English. But I disagree. Filipinos started learning English in 1901 when the US military transport SS Thomas docked in Manila with 540 American schoolteachers (lovingly remembered in history as the Thomasites).

Their mission and those of the thousands who followed was to teach English and the ways of democracy. They drew up a school curriculum with English as the medium of instruction, supplanting Spanish.

When I entered first grade in 1932, all the textbooks were in English. Even the national anthem was in Engush. Every morning before ciass, we sang, "Land of the morning, child of the sun returning..."-after the Star Spangled Banner, of course. The Filipinos had become the Americans' little brown brothers.

In a surge of nationalism after we became independent in 1946, the medium of instruction in public grade schools was changed to Filipino (Tagalog). As a result, graduates struggled in high school and college where English remained the medium of instruction.

Now, the Education Department is horrified that half of our public grade school teachers flunked an English proficiency test. All of a sudden, there is a renewed interest in teaching English to our students in all tevels.

Nevertheless, the Philippines is still the world's third largest English speaking country, next to the US and the UK Don't take my word for it. Ask the United Nations.

You can play go fall over Asia. But it is only in the Philippines, anywhere in the Philippines, where the caddy (usually a girl working her way through night school) will give your line of putt in perfect English ("Two bails nghr. Slow green Don't look up, sir.")

My friend Tim lives in Sydney and comes to Manila on business. On his last trip, I asked him if our neighbors were really catching up. He said, "Not until the cab drivers in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Hong Kong can argue with me in perfect English like the cab drivers in Manila do."

English is very important to me, being an insurance broker. It is the language of insurance and reinsurance, domestically and internationally Policies are in English. The insurance code was lifted from the codes of California and New York. The rules of the Insurance Commission are in English. All written communications are in English. Al. jurisprudence is in English. Happily, I do not see any deterioration of spoken and written English in the insurance industry.

In fact, the quality of English used by insurance agents has improved tremendously over the past 50 years. An agent used to get along quite well with grade school English. Not anymore. Today, with keen competition among agents with college degrees, no one can do well in insurance selling unless he has a good command of written and spoken English.

That our neighbors will eventually speak and write English as well as we do does not worry me. The Filipino-with his diligence, mutiative, imagination, and innute good nanure-will still be highly competitive

Above all, the more our neighbors learn English, the better we can communicate with each other Our part of the world will be far better for it. I wish our neighbors well in their march to English. proficiency. But they have a long, long way to go.

Businesses worldwide seen to be optimistic

OWNERS of mid-sized companies worldwide, especially in the Philippines, are more optimistic about the economy than last year—their increased confidence riding mainly on the expectation of an investment-led growth.

According to the International Business Owners Survey, conducted by research firm Grant Thornton, 13 out of the 24 countries surveyed expressed more optimism this year. with an increase of more than 10 percent in their optimism/pessitusm balance.

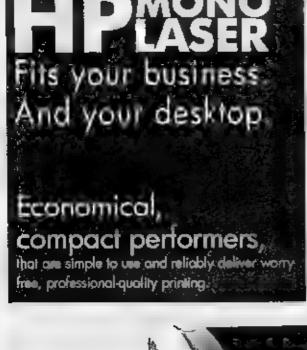
This balance is the difference between the number of optimistic and pessimistic respon-

The survey was conducted among 6,300 owners of mid-size firms from 24 countries

during the third quarter of 2004. Ireland posted the highest surge in optim.sm compared to last year (up by 72 points to +79 percent), followed by Poland (up by 53 points to +21 percent), Singapore (up by 92 points to +62 percent), and the Philippines (up by 51 points to +50 percent),

There is also a wide expectation that profinability will rise. The global average has increased to +45 percent from +42 percent last year. India is by far the most optimistic in terms of profitability at +75 percent, followed by the Philippines and New Zealand at +62 percent.

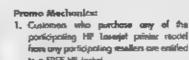












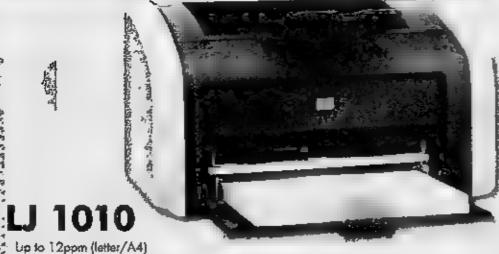
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PHRIPPINE DARLY INQUIRER BUSINESS

CAP-itol disconnections

THE SOBREPEÑAS of CAP may be financially hemstrung, but their lobbying instincts apparently remain intact

The father and son were seen Nov. 1 by the tomb of Diosdado Macapagal at the Libingan ng mga Bayani while the inte president's daughter, now President Macapagal-Arroyo, was visiting for the traditional Halloween pilgrimage.

Not only was the President there, so was Fe Barin, the chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission that is now cracking the regulatory whip on College Assurance Plan's faltering educational

It is not clear whether the Sobrepeñas were there accidentally, or that somebody arranged to have them to meet both the President and the SEC chief.

When asked by the SEC press corps about the Nov. 1 meeting, Barin appeared taken aback before she flashed her trademark frown and moved on to take another question, according to one reporter.

However, the SEC chief did clarify that the graveyard encounter had merely been a "chance meeting," said another

Despite the sepulchral engagement,

Barin, to her credit, still refused to budge on the SEC stand that CAP show actual money, not entangled land titles, before giving CAP the license to sell educational plans and thus print more cash.

As if their regulatory headaches were not enough, another front, this time at the legislature, has opened up.

Upon a resolution filed by Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay, the House committee on banks and financial institutions has scheduled a hearing today precisely to clear the financial and Halloween mysteries surrounding the pre-need pioneer.

The House hearings would also give the Sobrepeñas the chance to face the public and fay out the road map for CAR if there is one, instead of assigning a mere vice president to do all the dodging and spuring for them.

Backfire

CITIBANK has a major PR crisis within the power sector industry because of its US-style firing of one of its key vice presidents, Ma. Aurora Ceniza, who was dismissed on the spot in March 2003 because her position had been declared re-

frontcally, Ceniza, 40, had earlier de-

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin



clined a more lucrative offer from the competing ABN Amro Bank and relocate to Singapore out of what she said was lovalty to Catibank.

She was, after all, the Citibank's relationship manager for the multibilbon-peso power and energy sector accounts, having headed the Napocor business planning/natural gas depart-

ment before Citibank spotted and lured her for her rainmaking talents.

What made the firing worse was that Citibank thereafter treated Ceniza not as an ex-Citibanker who brought in more than P840 million in net revenues to the bank but like a common credit card delinquent, allegedly subjecting her to a barrage of phone calls and even sending her a threat letter against a disputed P4,000 credit card bill. Now, Centra has bounced back from

her 2003 depression and resurrected as the chief of staff of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., the asset-rich government corporation.

Not only did she file an illegal dismissal case against the multinational, the well-positioned bureaucrat has even rounded up testimonials from industry heavyweights such as Federico Lopez of First Generation and former Napocor president Guido Alfredo Delgado to support the illegal dismissal case she filed against the American bank.

Incidentally, the testimonials and case cocktales pdi@hotmail.com)

filings make very good reading, portraying an unknown, dark side of the suit brigade.

Heard through the grapevine

DESPITE howling winds and lashing rains brought by super typhoon Yoyong, Price Smart chair Widiam Go was seen greeting guests and enjoying himself Thursday evening during the inauguration of Cost U Less, the competing warehouse store along C-5.

Go claimed he was merely checking the competition.

(Email: cocktales_pdt@yahoo.com; or

E-mail brain@mozcom.com

Palace orders

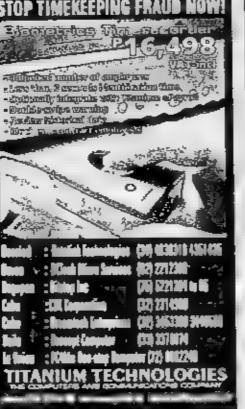
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board the MRT 3 line. The completion of the loop is seen to increase ridership.

Malacañang had earlier declared the extens on of MRT-3 to connect to the LRT 1 line as one of the administration's priority pro-Jecta

President Arroyo had given the goahead for the construction of the MRT-3 extension more than two years ago. But the assue as to MRTC whether should do it or have another group undertake the extension had stalled the project









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Mondragon, URPHI lose SEC permits

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) has revoked the permits of listed firm Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc.

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(URPHI) and lessure firm Mondragon Lessure for failing to submit reports for 2002 and and Resorts Cosp. (MLRC) to sell securities, government sources said.

It has also suspended Mondragon International Philippines Inc. from selling securities.

URPHI, in a disclosure last week, said it has not received any notice from the SEC regarding the revocation of its registration.

Last week, it said it would file its 2003 annual report with the SEC.

Last October, the SEC's corporation finance department warned MiPI and MLRC officials that they would lose their respective permits to seal securities if they failed to settle penalties.

The MIPI received penalties amounting to P175,000 for failing to submit its 2003 annual report and 2004 first quarter report.

Also, the SEC-CFD served a notice of hearing to MLRC, MiPI's fully-owned subsidiary. SEC records showed that the company failed to pay its penalties from May to July this year

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2001. The company's penalties by May had reached P177,512.

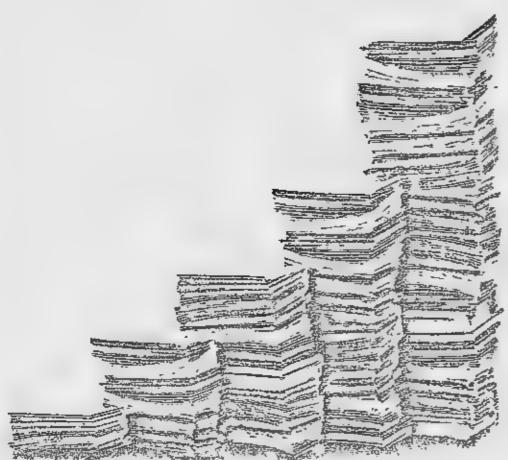
The MIPI postponed its September stockholder's meeting to give way to talks with potential investors, according to Jose Antonio U. Gonzales, Mondragon chair and chief executive officer.

The talks hopefully would lead to normalized operations at the 240-hectare Mimosa Leisure Estate. The meeting was moved to March 14 next year. This was the fourth time since last year that Gonzalez called for the postponement of the stockholders meeting. State-led Clark Development Corp. (CDC) took over the Mimosa estate in 1999 after Mondragon failed to settle back rentals with CDC and other habilities with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Mondragon also owed creditors some P7 billion.





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DISCLOSURES

SAN Miguel Corp. will issue additional shares equivalent to 10 percent of its outstanding capital stock. Shareholders will have the preemptive right to subscribe to these shares at a ratio of one share for every 10 shares owned. The company also declared a cash dividend of P0.36 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Dec. 17 and will be payable on Jan. 24. Also, its annual stockholders' meeting will be on May 17, 2 p.m. with stockholders as of March 28 entitled to vote during that meeting

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved Rizal Commerclass Banking Corp.'s amendments in its Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws that include the increase in the number of its directors to 15 from 11 and the reduction in its trust committee members to 5 from 8.

RECORD date for House of Investments Inc. 's declared cash dividend is an Dec. 16.

Tanduay Distillers inc. (not Tanduay Holdings Inc. as previously stated) declared a cash dividend of P1 per share in favor of its stockholders of record as of Nov. 30 and will be paid not later than Dec. 15. Tanduay Distillers is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tanduay Hordings. Compiled by Maricer D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Mining stocks . . . From page 81

Meanwhile, Cerdenia said weekly report. profit-taking might be seen in relecom stocks over reports it was one, said strong liquor sales one of government's priorities to pushed earnings up by 10 percent pass a franchise tax on telecommunication firms.

"Investment activity should return to normal (this) week (after the typhoon) as investors weigh earnings prospects for the com-ing year," BPI Trade said in a

Ginebra San Miguel Inc., for to P139 million In October from

P127 million a year ago. GSMi, the liquor unit of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., recorded a 19-percent increase in sales in October. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Moody's considers spate of positive news in RP credit-rating review

By Michelle V. Remo

MOODY'S Investors Service has expressed willingness to take into account the latest wave of positive developments-such as the sale of Masinioc power plant, the Supreme Court's decision liberalizing the mining sector, and the relatively high economic growth in the third quarter-in deciding over the fate of the Philippines' credit rating.

This was disclosed by Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong who, together with other finance officials, met with representatives of the international ratings firm Thursday night.

Representatives of Moody's, which earlier warned of a possible downgrade in the Philippines' credit rating due to the government's fiscal problem, came to the country for a review of Arroyo administration's fiscal situation.

"The sale of Masinloc, the Supreme Court's decision, and the announcement of the thirdquarter GDP (gross domestic product) came in time for the visit of Moody's," Amatong said in an interview.

She said government officials reported the positive developments to Moody's representatives during the meeting, and that the ratings agency agreed to consider these in deciding whether or not to downgrade the Philippines' credit rating.

Last week, the Supreme Court handed down a decision opening the mining industry to foreign investments. The move was a rever-

sal of the high court's earlier decision that the Mining Act of 1995, which liberalizes the local mining sector, was unconstitutional. The initial decision was much criticized by the executive branch and the business sector because this hindered the entry of billions of dollars in foreign investments.

The National Economic and Development Authority lauded the latest decision of the Supreme Court, saying it could pave the way for the entry of foreign investments amounting to \$4 billion to \$6 billion. The government said foreign investors were just waiting for the Supreme Court to make the favorable decision putting their money here.

Last Friday, the government was able to sell the 600megawatt Masinkoc coal-fired power plant, National Power Corp.'s first major asser to be privarized, for \$561.74 million to YNN Pacific Consortium

The revenue raised from the successful bidding will be used to ease debts of the state-owned power firm and, consequently ease the burden on the already fiscally troubled national government.

Amatong also said the higherthan expected 6.3 percent GDP growth for the third quarter. which was announced in the last week of November, could slightly ease the downside pressure on the country's credit rating.

Finance officials also updated Moody's on the progress of the Arroyo administration's proposed

fiscal measures in Congress.

The ratings agency earlier said developments in the country's fiscal sector would be the focus of its review. It raised concern on the perceived slow movement of the

fiscal reform measures in the legislature, and said the country's credit rating would suffer from downside pressures if none of the measures were passed within the year.

Amatong said she believed leg-

meeting of the Legislative-Execumakers from the two chambers of additional annual revenue.

islators would stick to the com- Congress said they would conmitment they gave in the recent duct joint hearings so that Congress would be able to pass tive Development Advisory Coun- three measures before the end of cil (Ledac). In that meeting, saw- the year generate P80 billion in

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Maturity of Macoming Salamat as Inyong Labors

My warmest feliciations to the officers and members of the Phild ippine Society of Anesthesiologists on your 37th Annual Convengrow Your theme, "Evolving Issues in Anesthesia Practice." relecte your commitment to make Filipuro anesthesiologists world-class in terms of their updated knowledge and sloll in the practice of their 2.7 profession. 4 44 B I am glad that your organization continues to raise the level of your proficiency as

snesthesiologists, which augurs well for the health and medical care of our people Indeed, you have translated into action your four shared values, which are commitment to quality care, concern for members welfars, professional growth and social consciousness. By so tiping you have helped promote national stability and progress which are key factors in our government's 10-point agenda aimed at bringing peace, progress and happiness to our people

Mativiny kayong whalf



My marmest greetings to the oficers and mombers of the Philipoing Society of Anasthesiologists as you lickly your 37th Annual Convention with eagement to face apolitic year of promising opportunities and well-earned success.

The contributed talent, tane and resources of your members to help your society to develop are truly commendable as you have become an imageal part in the provision of quality health care in

the country.
Your therms "Evolving Issues in Avestinate Practice" will theware and in focusing this seed for a more innovative approach that will essentially promote the use of quality anesthesis care in the country. The underlying challenge will be to sustain efforts as we need to some behind a common goal of pushing our country towards cooperation

1/2 12-



Greetings from the Philippine Medical Association II to with great strongure for me to convey my warmen fatigitations to be the afflored and impropers of the Philippine Secrety of Associational in II accommod to Anthur College and secrety of the philippine Secrety of Association to be held on December 5, 2004 of the College Branch to Hotel apily expresses your garages decire four those Sections (seems in Anothers Position apily expresses your garages decire

not only to improve the accesses and technology in your field of specialization but also to enhance your gifts and the quality of services you provide. An organization that has exhibit for 53 years can swrity be proud not only of itself, but also of the wealth of knowledge it has

The dynamic solutions of the medical community during the past several parts of its existence.

The dynamic solutions of our limbs and the growing need of society for bottor solvings indeed condened our quantific excellence likeway from an approach the solutions of our parts. If no according to the according to the according to the solutions of parts into according approaches with field of modes; a particle have provided the imperior to inlink global in terms of our protectority as interior have provided the proof to say that our another solving as among the best in the workship of wart you to hope it that way With that note. I would like to express my warmost regards and best wishes to one and obt







On botalf of the Officers and Denotors of December 9, 2004 (Thursday)

the PSA, I would like to beloome all the del-esses to the 37th Annual Committee of the 0700H Proping Society of Anesdissiclogists.
It is indeed a pleasure to see each of you again to review our intendable and promote lel-lewsive among the members of the Society a lime when the handshake is more that the

handout and the simile is worth more than This year's there Evolving Issues in Amesticals Procise; comes in bine when his mast egain update conserves on the miple tank issues which concern our practice. In this thighous times, we must equip operations with one wide and knowledge to promote asig anothers practice and it is our duty to admissible quity underly undertaken care listues such as periopically quity, intensive contests care listues such as periopically quity, intensive contests care listues and in services can contest an experience confidence and the services can contest an experience operation. enhegt care logrefizer resuscitation, portrattic antenthesia, pain managainant rateaion and earning and medico-legal aspects of ente-mests practice withte discussed

** would the to command the members of the Organizing Committee for proposing such interesting program of activities, expension and the vector program of activities, expension for the vector for the proposition and the vector program.

aburay layong lahati Mebukay ang PSAI Amelia M. Mango, MD DP 2A Smill Shanton, MD DP 2A Smill of the Philippines Society of Anesthetic



American property is to a constant flux and as In other specialities, there is always correcting time that radically changes the way one approaches problems in practice. The Organizing Committee of this 37th Convention has thee, apily themed this year's ectentific anssions as "Evolving tasues in Anasthesia

The previous are not only those that concern patient management. 1445-1530H Partiel Symposium: Acupumcture in but also those that concern treating of future ancesthesiologists at well as topics on the enesthesiologists workplace. We sincerely hope that you will all find the prouds compoling enough to missit

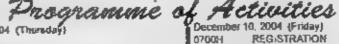
hope that you will alt find the assets compoling enough to made your attended to the pattendesse in these seasons.

To betain the times of the Convention, we are into helding the Pest Graduote Course, mis your anythed "CRASH Cousses in Armsthesiology". The idea behind the thome in "I a thember of one PSA work to mend to a policy the surpery and prophiquits after an atmance from prooflies he abouts to state to their threater during up to pair to term of carrent homotopy by attention the Course Even economic the continuous practicular of lost from the pooliging, marging the course the Specialty Separt Easter?

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Ista Battroom REGISTRATION 0830-0930H OPEN NG CEREMONIES Keynote Speaker. Dr. Bu C. Castro President, Philippine Medical Association

0930-1030H 17th QUINTIN J. GOMEZ ORATION CENON R CRUZIMD NERISSA D. SANTOS, MO 1039-1100H OPERING & VIEWING OF TRADE EXHIBITS

1100-1145H Changing Nature of Americania Provide In the Philip Speaker Dr. Ludtvino G. De Guzman

"Myocardial Pre-conditioning with Volatiles (with special reference to sevolutane) Spenker Dr. Stephen Barrett

1230-1515H Mechanical Ventilation in the convolution found Speaker Dr. Lim Boon Leng

1315-1400H Recent edystrons in combrat too Speaker: Dr. Benjamin M. Rigor

1400-144SH Postoperative Cognitive Dysfunction Speaker: Dr. Florian R. Nuevo

Anasthesia & Anaigesia Panelists: Or Corezon R. Arcengel Dr. Ma. Zeneide M. Marfano

Dr. Ceaser U. Sy 1530-1616H Symposium on Updates on Padutines Amethor Updates on Propotol & Other Drugs on Pediatric Anasthasia

Speaker: Dr Edon D. Tan Updates on Post op Pain Drugs Speaker: Dr. Bergemin Dantel S. Valera 1615-1700H Recent Advances in Airway Management

Speakar. Dr. Lim Boon Long.

1800H -Orwands FELLOWSHIP RIGHT Thoma: Thursday Naght Fover

For Inquiries PSA SECRETARIAT

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Teltus. 120-58-52

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December 10, 2004 (Friday) REGISTRATION

0830-1100H GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING 1100-1145H Problems Confronting Training Programs Speaker, Dr. Nemssa D. Santos

1145-1230H Euncheon Symposium 2 Your Assethetia Machine and You' Output of the DOH Yachnical Committee on Anosthesia Work Station

> **Luncheon Symposium 3 "Crystallold or** Colloids? Are we asking the Right Question?

Speaker: Or Burninada T. Camagey

Speaker Dr. Hrishikesh Kulkami

1230-1315H Anesthesia for Barletric Surgery Speaker Dr. Jennifer C. Cancio

1315-1430H Topic: Obstructive sleep apnes and Speaker Dr. Um Soon Lang

1430-1515H Topic: Complications of Minimally Invasive Surgery Speaker Dr. Emesto F Dela Cerna

1615-1630H Topic. Hand held Computing for the Anasthesiologist Speaker Dr. Jacinto Bles Mantening 1630-1715H Topic: Pain Assessment for the

Cognitively Impaired Speaker Dr Basjamis M. Rigor 1715-1600H Topic: Sexual Herasament in Anasthode

> Speaker: Ally, Clare Rits A. Pedille Reactor Ally Ma, Elena R. Enriquez MD

REGISTRATION FEES:" FREE Trance Member/Resignat P1500 00 Līe P 2,000 00 Non-Member P 2,500.00

1800 -Oquards PBA CHAPTER DELEGATES MEFTING



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INTERNATIONAL agriculture research firm Monsanto hailed the nefty growth registered by the agricultural sector, saying the performance was boosted by sound food production policies of the government

Monsanto Philippines public offa rs director Noel Borlongan said the sector was poised to regisfer its highest growth rate since 2000. He cited reports of Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap that showed a 6.82 percent growth in the farm sector during the first nine months of the year. The growth boosted the sector's gross value of production by 19.2 percent to P557 9 mileon.

Bortongan cited in particular the performance of the grains subsector, with palay output rising by 14 percent to 8.91 m.luon metric tons. This translates to a gross valne of P85.4 billion, a 21 percent increase from year-ago level.

Corn output rose by 22.5 percent to 4.27 million metric tons for a gross value of P37 7 billion during the first nine months, a 56 percent increase from year-ago level.

Borlongan said that, while favorable weather conditions, higher yields per hectare, increase in planted hectarage and favorable market prices contributed to the hefty growth performance, the current agriculture poucies were largely responsible for the impressive growth records.

Yap's focus on appropriate technology and the use of hybrid seeds clearly boosted productivity in palay areas, Borlongan pointed out. The agriculture department he said, succeeded to prishing the use of the hybrid seed varieties Gimmhang through the Masaganang Am program This. in turn, caused higher harvest levels in Cagayan Valley. Western Visayas, Bicol and Mindanao.

BUSINESS

Strong farm growth cited Pre-need firm prospective buyer told to put up funds this month

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) is giving a prospective investor in troubled pre-need firm Asian Diamond Plans Inc. until the end of the year to infuse fresh capital into the company, sources told the Inquiries.

The sources said the SEC was planning to shut down the company and distribute its assets among its estimated 4,000 plan holders if no new investments were intused into the firm by the end of the year.

Industry sources and a British national, who is a former sales executive of CMG Insurance, was interested in investing in Asian

Diamond. He is planning to form minimum of P10 million in cash sequently bought a major stake in a group of investors who will infuse investments into the ailing pre-need firm.

The company's assets include its trust fund, estimated at P30 million, sources said.

The SEC last week informed plan holders of the status of the pre-need firm and its plan to liquidate the company's assets if no investor would come in av Dec. 31

The SEC Commission on Bandapproved the deacaine for the prespectwo investor two weeks ago-

To ricet the SH s P100 ml bon capital requirement for preneed firms, the prospective in vestor may be allowed to infuse a

and P90 milion worth of real assets into the company.

Asian Diamond had stopped selling pre-need plans since early last year. A few months later, the SEC formed a management committee to preserve the assets of the company and protect the interest of plan holders.

The SEC last year discovered (trat As in Diamond Plans had a trust find deficiency of P1+5 rapital base to at last P 00 mi

To date inclisity sources said. net liabilities had already reached arou at P100 m. Iron

To help audress its det co an American-Singaporeari group subthe pre-need firm from previous shareholder Damaso Magbual.

The SEC expressed concerns over the infusion of new capital by the Singaporean group saying it was a toan and not fresh money. It later said that to continue selling plans, Asian Diamond should find a new investor

The SEC ear ier recurred preneed firms to raise, held points p on nabd oweed to fly by night operators and to conscidata the incustry. The para upcapito equi emem idio nerger and legers from talks in the pix

Robina Farms sets expansion plans for 2005

By Christine A. Gaylican

JG SUMMIT Ho dongs Corp. has set expans on plans for its agribusiness subsidiary, Robina Farms, involving the establishment of new hog farms most .ikely in areas outside

According to company president and chief operating officer Lance Gokongwei, Robina Farms is inclined to expand the capacity of its existing sow breeder farms in Luzon and to build new ones in other areas next year.

"There are definite plans for expansion of our, sow breeding operations but the exact numbers have yet to be finalized and decided by the company board this month," Gokong-

Robina Farms' existing swine breeder farms are in Teresa, Rizal and San Miguel, Bulacan. The farms have combined capacity to produce 200,000 heads a year.

Considered the third largest commercial hog farm raiser nationwide, Robina Farms aims to increase its share of the market, which is-currently dominated by San Miguel Corp.'s Monterey Farms and the Lucio Tan Group's

Aside from hog raising, Robina Farms is also engaged in poultry farming. It supplies broaler and layer day-o.d chicks largely to backyard raisers (the company holds about 40 percent of the commercial day-old broker chicks market and some 55 percent share of .ayer day-old pullets)

Robina Farms forms part of the Gokongwei Group's agro-industrial subsidiaries under Universal Robina Corp. It contributed about 13 percent to the entire group's domestic sales ast year worth P28 6 billion.

The Gokongweis' two other agro-industria, companies are Universal Corn Prodacts Inc., engaged in the manufacturing and distribution of anima, feeds and gincose, and Robichem, which handles the production and distribution of animal health products

The Gokongweis are also into sugar milling and refining through subsidiaries Universa, Robina Sugar Milling Corp. (Ursumco), Cagayan Robina Sugar Milling Corp. (Carsumco), and Southern Negros Davelopment Corp. (Sonedco), and flour milling through Continental Milling Company (CMC) In 2003, this segment contributed approximately 10 percent of the group's aggregate net sales.

No Free Lunch

tral and South America, still largely insignificant in our trade and investment relationships. And yet our neighbors Malaysia and Indonesia have already made much more headway in these economies, despite our potential advantage ansing from the Justorica. Hispanc colonial ties we share with them.

Addressing vulnerability

Maximizing ODA opportunities at a time att a Winnigenth Franch a Well paid framus containly be an important element in our economic diplomacy. So are efforts to achieve some form of debt relief and debt reduction through debt swaps and negotiations to redose debt payments in the short term. We can do more to maximize market opportunities from the growth in services outsourcing and aging populations in wealthy countries. With some strategic thinking, more such opportunaties can be identified and planned for

There is a danger that the current preoccupation with international security and the effort against terrorism would unduly crowd our economic 4 plomacy from the priorities of our foreign service. At this time when our economy is particularly vulnerable due to the government's fiscal difficulties, it is important more than ever that the fiscal crisis be prevented from turning into a full economic crisis. And apart NEDA, DOF, DTI, DBM, BSP and the other economic agencies, the Department of Poreign Affairs can play a crucia, role in ensuring this. Comments and welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu



GOVERNMEN Cigarette smoking is da

BUSINESS

NTC to base telco's fees on number of subscribers



Clarissa S. Batimo

THE NATIONAL Telephonic Rice Con-भागा र वास्तु क्रिया र एक अपने सीत that would have the computation of personal users, fee on a mobile phone of the as see 11 ber of subscribers

The NTC said this was in line with efforts to __rive from these." raise more revenue. It would also etisure a more accurate reporting of subscribers

In its draft circular the NTC wanted to impose an additional spectrum fee of P1 million Tor every 100 000 additional subscribers in excess of 2 million. For mobile carners with

only 2 million customers and below, the old rate will ap-

We are looking at a new formula that would take into accuent the number of subscribers.* said Ronald Solis, NTC commissioner

The NTC believes the fees should not be based on a constant number of hase stations but on the income they de-

As of end-September, Smart Communications Inc. said its customers have reached a 17.5 milion while Giobe Telecom Inc. said it . counted 11.7 million. Third player Sun Cellular said it broke the 1 million mark in Novem-

The bulk of the regulator's profits yearly. come from the spectrum users' fee, or what. the NTC collects from telecom companies for 5 use of certain radio frequencies.

In the first half, the NTC raised P381 mil-, lion from spectrum fees out of the total P488 million generated by the agency. It also collects regulatory fees and other charges related to filing and acensing.

Currently, the spectrum fee slapped on mobile carriers is based on the radio frequency band occupied and the area covered. It takes into account the number of base stations or ,

Even the current basis of the spectrum fee is being disputed by mobile carriers. Wireless players claimed the NTC had been imposing double charges on the radio frequency.

"We want to rationalize the basis of the fees and also to resolve outstanding assues." Solis ." said. "We are considering a reasonable period for them to have recovered their investments in the infrastructure. Thus, the 2 million subscribers' ceiling."

The NTC chief is anticipating an initial resistance from the industry, but he said the; commission would continue to draft measures it believed fair and reasonable.

PLDT seen to incur P2B in forex losses

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. is likely to incur P2 billion in foreign exchange losses this year as a result of the new international accounting standards, a senior Annabeile Chua, PLDT semor vice presi-

dent and treasurer, said that the telecom giant was likely to book about P2 biliton in exchange losses. She added that this would not affect the

company's bottomline. "It would be PNL (Profit and Loss Statement) neutral," Chua said. "We are required to book the losses each year depending on how the foreign exchange moved. Losses (of the) previous years would be charged to the balance sheer."

Chua said the exchange rate was not very volatile this year compared to previous years. The peso had averaged at about P56 to the

Companies worldwide must comply with two new international accounting standards

The first, already being implemented this year, requires companies to book any foreign exchange losses on transaction on the year these were incurred and not later.

Up for adoption next year is the requirement that outstanding losses on foreign exchange transactions be made transparent.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said the company would start adopting the new global accounting benchmark this fourth quarter. The telecom giant has nearly \$3 bilhon in outstanding debt, the bulk of which is due to its fixed-line business.

Of the PLDT Group's \$2.99-billion debt, \$2,2 billion are owed by the fixed line business, Smart and Pilter has a combined \$718 Clarissa S. Batina

RP firms post sales of \$12.8M in trade shows

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE companies earned a total of \$12.8 million or about P717 million in sales receipts during home and construction, and food and beverage trade shows held in Japan over the last two months.

According to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, local firm's participation in the Japan Florie and Building Show 2004 held Nov. 16-19 registered \$8.2 muhon or about P459 million in receipts.

Three companies—natural stone products firm Pearlstone Inc., kitchen and cabinet accessories firm Asiaco Enterprises International Corp. and wooden laminated doors firm. YYD System Interiors Inc.—took part in Japan's largest trade show for housing and building materials.

The exhibitors confirmed that the Japanese were interested in modern home fixtures. They said the Philippine booth entertained at . least 150 trade inquiries, according to Citem-

A.so, Philippine exhibitors yielded P4.6 million or about P258 million in sales during the Asean Food and Beverage Exhibition heid Oct 3-8.

Local companies that participated include Cater King Food Corp. for Mama Rosa gourmer products, Natural Quality for ampalaya food supplement, RFM Corp. for fruit drinks and VCNO Philippines for virgin co-

The country has targeted food promotion in Japan to showcase a wide range of Philippine food and farm products including tropica. fruit drinks and natural vinegat.



T. WARNING: ngerous to your health

MEDICAL TOURISM, OUTSOURCING

'Clustering' strategy urged to lure investments

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE PHILIPPINES can lure more foreign direct investments into the country by making its industries cluster around niches, such as medical tourism and contract business process outsourcing.

This was one of the main conclusions that came out of the recent Asian Development Bank workshop entitled, "Developing a Competitive Philippine Business Environment."

The workshop said that clustering was an important strategy to "ensure a targeted effort and to enhance the advantages the country enjoys," the ADB said in a report.

Jointly organized by the ADB, network, save, and then come riorating fluency in English and

Asia Society Philippine Foundation and iNG Bank Philippines, the workshop brought together a multi-sectoral group of prominent local businessmen, top managers of international corporations operating in the Philippines and government officials.

Medical tourism, one of the country's seven investment priorities, capitalizes on the existing state-of-the-art hospitals and medical facilities in the country and on the huge number of doctors, nurses, and caregivers now going out of the country to find

"We can tell our nurses to go abroad, learn everything you can,

Asia Society Philippine Foundation and iNG Bank Philippines, tourism in the country," said the workshop brought together Doris Ho, chair of Asia Society.

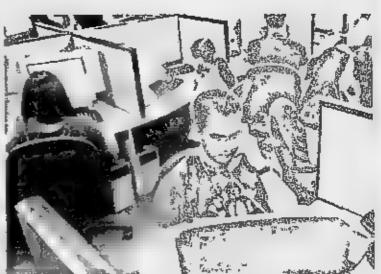
The call center business, on the other hand, which first came into the Philippines in 2001, is considered one of the country's sunshine industries and now employs about 55,000 neonle.

"We have experienced tremendous expension and there is still an influx of companies looking to set up call centers in the Philippines," said Karen Batungbacal, president of ICT Group Inc. in the Asia Pacific and president of Bustness Processing Association Philippines.

But it was raised that the deteriorating fluency in English and perceptions of security risks were two major constraints that could hamper the further expansion of the BPO industry in the Philip-

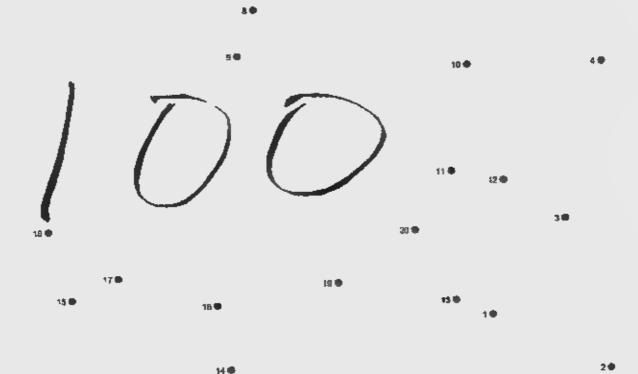
To ensure that the country maintains its competitive advantage in English fluency, the workshop participants suggested using government-owned television networks to promote the use of English and convincing colleges and universities to once again revert to the use of English as the main medium of instruction.

The need to address the anticipated inadequacy of power supply was also highlighted as one of the more urgent infrastructure needs.



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RP to partner with China on pricing

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is leading efforts to get local fitms to partner with their Chinese counterparts, in a bid to expand the market for Philippine exports.

The DTI's Center for International trade Expositions and Missions led a trade delegation to China last October to see how local firms could adopt the Chinese pricing structure.

The delegates also reported that while goods from China could be priced lower than Philippine products, the design, quality and production quality for local goods remained competitive.

The delegates included officials from MKJ Service Link Contractors Inc., Sanport Craft International and JC Jem's International Export Inc.

The delegates also said that partnerships with Chinese companies could mean the Philippines would do the product and marketing development, while Chinese counterparts could do the manufacturing.

China's first wave of exports in the 1980s consisted of low-end items such as toys and textiles, but a new wave of shipments include high-value and high-technology products such as electronics, appliances, automobiles computers and mobile phones.

On the other hand, the Philippines has moved on from a supplier of export products to a source of design ideas in Asia.

Local products have found their way into showrooms and upscale shops such as Raiph Lauren, Casa Armani, Calvin Klein, Neiman Marcus and Marks and Spencer

Citem executive director and Trade Assistant Secretary Februars Agonculo-Reyes said. "Instead of competing with China, we would like to eye it as our partner in creating excellent products that address the needs of consumers in the global market."

"We can complement China's low-cost manufacturing with our savvy in marketing,"

Nippon Oil eyes 10% share of lubricant mart

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOCAL distributor of Nippon Oil Corp Japan's biggest oil firm, expects to grab a 10percent share of the P15.3-million automo-

tive inbricant market in two years.
Ferdinand Tarroza, assistant vice president at Nippon Oil local distributor Delta Japan Oil Products Corp., said the firm aimed to sell between 600,000 and 800,000 liters of lubricat

ing oil during the first year alone.

According to Deira Japan's research, 255 million liters of lubricating oil were sold each year to the automotive, marine and industrial

of this 255 million liters, automotive lubricants accounted for 40 percent of total sales.

Delta Japan said it was targeting a 10 percent share of this market for automotive lubricants for its lubricant brand Eneos.

The automotive lubricant market is divided into the commercial and "high-street" or re-

The commercial market covers trucking firms, hauling services and bus operators, while rerail refers to individual consumers.

while rerail refers to individual consumers.

Nippon Oil's Eneos brand caters to the retail market.

Delta Japan president Arturo Tayag said the company aimed to at least break even on the first year of selling the Eneos brand here. Nippon Oil marketing group senior staff Kentaro Sodeyama said the entry of the Eneos brand into the Phihppine market was a good way for the Japanese firm to penetrate the local market.

However, he said there were no plans right now to expand its business here beyond the marketing of the Eneogoils.











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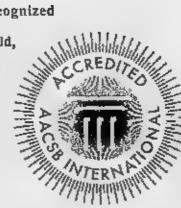
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Editor Arles Espinosa

Filipino attempts to climb Mt. Aconcagua for PGH wards

POR THOSE thursty for some good news, look no further. This December, a Filipino mountaineer will attempt to climb Mt. Aconcagua, the highest mountain in the Americas, to raise funds for the charity wards of the Philippine General Hospital

Ronn Garduce, a seasoned mountaineer who has successfully made several high-altitude climbs in the past, is making the attempt in the hopes of soliciting donations in behalf of the Bukas Sarih Foundation Composed almost entirely of volunteers. BSF spearheads activities to raises funds to support patients at the Internal Medicine wards of the PGH.

Since 1999, BSF has helped more than 200 indigent patients afflicted with illnesses such as tuberculosis, di-

abetes, pneumonia, and cancer

Mt. Aconcagua, standing at more than 22,842 feet, is the highest mountain in South America and outside Asia. It is considered by the climbing community to be a dangerous ascent. The list of deaths on the mountain attests to the dangers that await those who attempt to conquer it.

Aconcagua Park Authorities records show that if he succeeds in reaching Mr. Aconcagua's summit, Garduce will be the first Filipino to do so. Further, this may be the highest altitude reached by a Filipino on record to date. (This istter record, though, may need to be verified).

Garduce initially intended to climb the mountain as a purely personal endeavor. Inspired by fund-raising pro-

jects of BSF however, particularly its yearly marathon-for-a-cause events, he volunteered to make his effort a venue to raise funds for often overlooked patients at the PGH.

Individuals and companies can contribute either through outright donations or conditional pledges. People may pledge any amount according to every thousand feet that Garduce reaches, or whether or not he successfully reaches its summit.

Garduce leaves for Argentina on Dec. 10. He is expected to be back safely in January.

For more information, call the Bukas Sarili Foundation through Iona Jalijali at 0917-8110874 or ionaks@yahoo.com or ijalijali@bukas-



The world-class air cargo mover, Transglobal Consolidators inc. was recently cited as the Outstanding Air Cargo Consolidator by the 42-year-old Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP) during its 15th Annual National Consumers Awards, Known for providing customers the highest standard of service at the best competitive rates. Transglobal Consolidators inclaiso maintains an excellent work environment for its employees by maintaining a program that promotes their total development.

Shown are lawyers Quirino Marquinez (left), CUP president, presenting the award to Paul Louis Fugade (center), president of Transglobal Consolidators no, while other CUP officers look on Transglobal Consolidators Inc's main office is at the Perry Logistics Centre alone Ninoy Aquino Avanue, and may be reached at 826-5400. It also has a Cebu office at the Galco Building at the Mactan International Airport Cargo Complex, with telephone numbers 341 5025.



CITIBANK PREFERRED BRANDS PROMO

Citibank, the industry Innovator in card products and services, recently launched its biggest promotion that gives new and existing cardholders the chance to win big-ticket prizes, including a brand-new Mercedes Benz C180 Kompressor, a Canon Powershot Prof. Digital Camera with Canon Pixma IP60000 photo printer P100,000 worth of Shell fuel cards, a Fujitsu Lifebook 56220, a 43-men Sony Projection TV, an Apple iPod 40G with dock and Apple Care protection plan, a Hewlett Packard (PAQ 3715, Imps for two to Hong Kong via Cathay Pacific, a Panasonic Home Theater SC-HT-900 and a Samsung E800 mobile phone. To join, cardholders must lext the word 'CITI' and the last 10 digits of their credit

pending on their card type. Existing cardholders earn 1 raffle entry for every P1.000 retail and eash advance transactions, and PayLite availments. You can also earn raffle entries by enrolling utility accounts to Citibank 18J and applying for supplementary pards. Selected transactions made online at www.cri bank.com.ph get bonus raffle entries. A cardholder may win one of the 10 prizes during the first two raffle ed on Dec. 6 and 27 or get to win the entire showcase-all 10 prizes-in the grand raffle draw on March 3. Seen during the launch were (from left) Citibank marketing director Gecille Fonacter cards business director Michellina Triwardhany, country business manager for global consumer group Nina Aguas and TV personality Angel Ja-

card and send it to 2366. Approved applicants for a Citibank credit card will earn raifle entries de-

cob, who hosted the affair. roduct FILES No boundaries

COMPACT cars, SUVs and AUVs were not testing and has passed the four seasons designed to carry excess luggage other than what would fit in its trunk. If you have more luggage than what your vehicle will allow, add roof racks. Thule Roof Rack Systems of Sweden makes it possible to fit Xplorer rack system your extra load. Thule is designed to be a perfect fit for most Japanese, European and American cars, AUVs and SUVs. Made of cutting-edge materials, Thule Roof Rack Systems are waterproof and theft-proof and has undergone stringent OEM quality

test as required by the Ford Q1, QS9000, the German DIN 75302, German TUV and the ISO norm 11154 and 14001 Shown is a Ford Everest equipped with Thule's

Thule's line of roof boxes and accessories are on display at its showroom at the Equirable Bank Building, Ortigas Avenue corner Roosevelt Streets, Greenhills, San Juan or call 744-6367, or log on to www.thule.com



PNOC to use Osea2004 as platform for strategic partnerships

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Com- the primary reason behind the govpany (PNOC) is among the companles that will be taking part in Asia's largest oil and gas trade exhibition Osea2004. Slated from Dec. 7 to 10 at Suntec Singapore, Osea2004 will open doors for joint ventures in oil and gas exploration and is a chance for the Philippines to showcase its prowess in geothermal energy.

"We are proud to announce that PNOC will be participating in Osea. We have taken part in Osea in the past and have found it to be a highly effective platform in forming strategic partnerships and gaining important contacts. We consider Osea as one of the most comprehensive oil and gas events in the region," says Eduardo V Manalac, president and CEO, Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC). Osea2004 provides a comprehensive showcase of the latest apstream and downstream technologies that are supplied to national oil companies and international oil companies.

At the show, oil-producing countnes have the opportunity to attract foreign direct investment from international oil companies and nationa. oil companies from other countries. They can source for the latest technologies that will help them optimize oil production to gain the best ROI on energy investments.

Oil consumption in the Philippines is expected to rise by five percent a year for the rest of the decade, according to the Petroleum Economist. The Philippines' rising oil demand is met mostly by net oil imports of 312,000 barrels per day.

A high concentration of oil majors at Osea would be an imperus for the Philippines to source for overseas joint ventures in oil exploration and to attract investors to further develop its own emerging natural gas industry. Reducing oil import expenses is

emment's agenda to expand the use of natural gas for electric power generation and transportation fuel. This would serve as a lucrative incentive for foreign investors to tap on the Philippines' proven natural gas reserves of 3.8 trillion cubic feet.

Apart from satisfying national energy needs, the Philippines can also showcase alternatives to fuel such as geothermal power. The Philippines is the second largest producer of geothermal power in the world.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the Philippines appears to also have a strong potenrial for wind generation, which means other renewables for electricity generation can also be explored. At a time when there is an international oil crisis, oil hungry countries will be on the hunt for alternatives to oil as a staple source of energy

PNOC will be joined by four other Nanonal Oil Companies including BPMIGas, Timor-Leste Mineral Resources Directorate of the Ministry Of Development and Environment (the Designated Authority of the Timor Sea JPDA), and Singapore Petroleum Company. At Osea2004, Timor Leste will offer its first open and competitive bid round for selected oil and gas exploration blocks, moving forward after resolving its recent dispute with Australia over the maritime boundary. Timor Leste will also be announcing recent developments on its off shore seismic study and updates on petroleum legislation, with a focus on transparency initiatives in establishing its oil and gas industry.

Over 1,000 exhibiting companies from 45 countries representing high net worth investors and key stake holders will be seen at Osea2004. Companies such as 3M Technologies, Aqua-Terra Supply Co Ltd, Bluewater

Energy, GE Supply, Industrial Services. J Ray McDermott, Keppel Offshore & Marine, Kiswire, KS Tech, Haskel. Parker Hannifin, Radio Holland, Marioff, SingTel and many others will showcase their amovative solutions for the Asian oil and gas industry to attract business opportunities and new contracts for the provision of hardware, technologies and services.

International companies such as CNOOC, ConocoPhillips, Exconmobil, Hailiburton, Schlumberger, Shell, Unocal, PFTEP, Petronas Carigali, Japan National Oil Corp, Nippon Oil, Star Energy, Woodside Energy and many others have indicated their interest to visit Osea2004 to source for technologies.

*Osea presents opportunities for open dialogue and negotiation between key players from around the region and the Middle East. Companies, government representations and decision-makers come here on sourcing and market intelligence missions, get updated on the latest technologies, industry trends and exchange ideas," said Tee Boon Teong. project director for Osea, Singapore

Exhibition Services. An expected 10,000 visitors will atrend the show, including key decasion-makers from top management, engineers, draftsmen, government executives, project consultants, rig operators, petroleum geologists, mdustry professionals from oil and gas exploration, processing and refinery, shipbuilding and marine engineering and other related industries. Six country groups from Australia, Germany, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom and the United States are expected to be present at Osea2004. The event is organized by Singapore Exhibition Services (SES). For more information about Osea2004, log on to www.osea-



MFI 19TH GRADUATION RITES

A total of 149 scholars of Meralco Foundation Institute (MFI), who completed the 3-year industries Technician Program, received their diplomas during the school's 19th commencement exercises held at the Teatro Aguinaido. Shown are the school's officials (from left) Dr. Quintin Doromal and Rod Cruz, members of the advisory council, Manuel Lim Jr, Or. Rene Gayo, Dean Alberto Muyot and Dr. Florangel Rosario Braid, trustees, Dr. Jose S. Sandejas, chair, board of trustees, Rep. Edmundo D. Reyes Jr. (seated), guest speaker, and Col. Alex T. Escaño, MET president. Shown below is part of the graduating batch of scholars.

PHOTOWORLD Manila 2005, the country's

biggest and longest-running photo show, opens from Feb. 3 to 8 at Glorietta, Ayala Center in

Photographers, amateur and professional, as well as suppliers of the photo industry, will mount a grand trade show and photo exhibit that will showcase the latest digital/film cameras, phototechnology at the premier Makati mall.

PWM 2005 showcases digital film tech

On its 10th year, PWM 2005 enjoys wide participation and features a trade exhibit showcasing the latest models of cameras and video imaging products, a photo exhibit by the country's active carriers clubs and photo associations, proclamation of Photoworld Cup winners, photo contests, and daily activities enhancing photo skills of photo enthusi-

A series of seminars will be conducted at the

Asian Institute of Management from Feb. 4 to 7. Led by foremost American lecturer Eddie Tapp, the acknowledged leading lecturer on digital imaging, the series of workshops lined up for the event aims to enhance and broaden the skills of photographers who have shifted to digital photography. The workshops will be on various interesting topics by

topnotch local photographers. Special discount prices for cameras and photo

equipment will be offered by trade exhibitors.

PWM 2005 in being organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Poundation, a photoorganization promoting the advancement of photography in the Philippines. For details, visit PPPF at the 7th floor of the Comfoods Building, Gil Puyat Avenue corner Chino Roces Avenue, Makati, or call 813-7420 or 843-5341, or log on to www.photoworldmanila.com.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM SURVEY

Leaders upbeat on global economic prospects

Switzerland-The Voice of the Leaders survey carried out by Weber Shandwick and KRC suggests that while the 2,000 corporate, political, acadenic and media leaders are more concerned about security, they do not feel that threats to security will derail the global econ-

The Voice of the Leaders survey echoes the questions put to over 50,000 respondents in the Voice of the People survey commissioned by the World Economic Forum and released last month.

The WEF is the foremost global community of business, political, intellectual and other leaders of society committed to improving the state of the world.

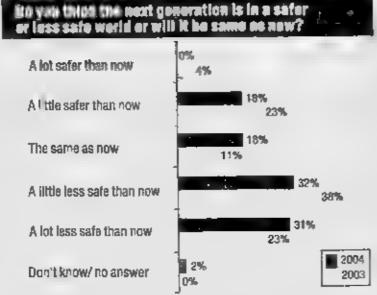
Survey results

The Voice of the Leaders survey reveals.

- · Global leaders are more pess, mustle about global security than last year.
- An increase in terrorism (46 percent) and expansion of the war in Iraq to other parts of the world (24 percent) are respondents, greatest worries for 2005.
- Corporate leaders are significantly less pessimistic than political and media leaders.
- Global leaders are signaficantly more concerned about prospects for security than the general public questioned in the Voice of the People survey.
- Despite the concern about security, leaders are more optimistic about the economy than they were a year ago and significantly more upbeat on the economy than the respondents of the Voice of the People survey.

The leaders believe that technology and trade liberalization are the most significant drivers of egonomic prosperity.

Commenting on the findings, Professor Klaus Schwab, executive chair and founder of the World Economic Forum, said "The results of the survey show that it is ever more imperative to



bring world leaders together in order not to let security angst compromise the economic out-

Security

Global business and political leaders participating in the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos next year are more pessimistic than a year ago about the state of the world (See table

Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of the leaders believe that the next generation will live in a less safe world. This compares to 61 percent 12 months ago.

There has been a sharp drop in the number of leaders who beneve that the next generation will live in a safer world. Last year it was 27 percent, but the latest sample shows that only 18 percent believe in a safer world. Nobody believes that the world will be much safer for the next generation, whereas last year 4 percent believed in the prospect of a much safer world.

Corporate leaders seem to be considerably more optimistic than political and media leaders. Some 20 percent believe that the world will be a little bit safet com-

group which consists of media, politicians, NGOs and academics.

About 61 percent of the corporate leaders are convinced that the world will be a less safe place for the next generation compared to 67 percent of non-corporate

The media subset is marginally more pessimistic with 63 percent, while academics, politicians and NGOs are the most pessimistic subgroup with 72 percent believing that the next generation will face a more dangerous world.

The reasons for this increased pessimism by the leaders become apparent in their response to the question about their greatest worry for 2005.

An increase in terronsm (46 percent) and expansion of the war in Iraq to other parts of the world (24 percent) are respondents' greatest worties for 2005 A failure in the economy is slightly more likely to worry corporate respondents (18 percent) than non-corporate respondents (12) percent).

By comparing the Voice of the Leaders survey with the Voice of the People survey commissioned by the World Economic Forum and conducted by Gallup Interna-

that the leaders are more pessimistic than the wider popula-

About 45 percent of the people surveyed around the world beheve that the next generation will be less safe, compared to 63 percent of the leaders.

Prosperity

The participants who will attend the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos in January 2005 were asked for their opinion on whether the next gencration will live in a more or less prosperous world. (See table below)

It seems that despite their pessimism about security, the leaders' group is becoming more optimistic about global economic prospects. Two-thirds (65 percent) believe that the next generation will enjoy greater prosperity in the future. Only 27 percent believe that the next generation will be less prosperous.

This represents a significant improvement in the leaders' opinion on economic prospects. In the last survey, carried out 12 months ago, 59 percent believed that the next generation would be more economically prosperous, with 29 percent believing it would be less prosperous a marginal improvement in 12 months.

Corporate leaders are the most optimistic group of World Economic Forum participants. Some 68 percent are optimistic about economic prospects, with nearly a quarter (23 percent) believing that the next generation will have much more economic prosperity

By contrast, the non-corporate group is stightly more pessimistic, with only 63 percent believing there will be more economic prosperity and only 16 percent believing that there will be much more economic prosperity.

That last figure is made up exclusively of the media. It seems that no politicians, academics of

around the globe, findings show NGOs believe that there will be outside their home markets. much more economic growth.

> More than one-third of noncorporate leaders (35 percent) believe there will be less prosperity, compared to only 23 percent of corporate leaders.

Growth drivers

In order to analyze how and why this improvement in economto growth will come about, the poll also asked what the most important drivers of prosperity are.

Technology (58 percent) and trade liberalization (53 percent) are the most significant by a substantial margin. Increasing flows of direct investment is important for only 39 percent and the free flow of global capital only rated 27 percent. Aid is only considered to be a driver by 9 percent.

The corporate leaders' preferred prosperity driver is trade liberalization. Taken together with the lower rating for increasing capital and investment flows, this suggests that the world's business leaders are more strategically focused on selling goods and services than on investing

There is a disparity in suppost for technology as a driver of growth. While it is the top driver for the group as a whole, it is the second most important driver for the corporate group. There is a significantly greater importance attached to technology by the politicians, media, academics and

The corporate respondents are more likely than the media respondents to think that free flows of capital and labor mobility will be important.

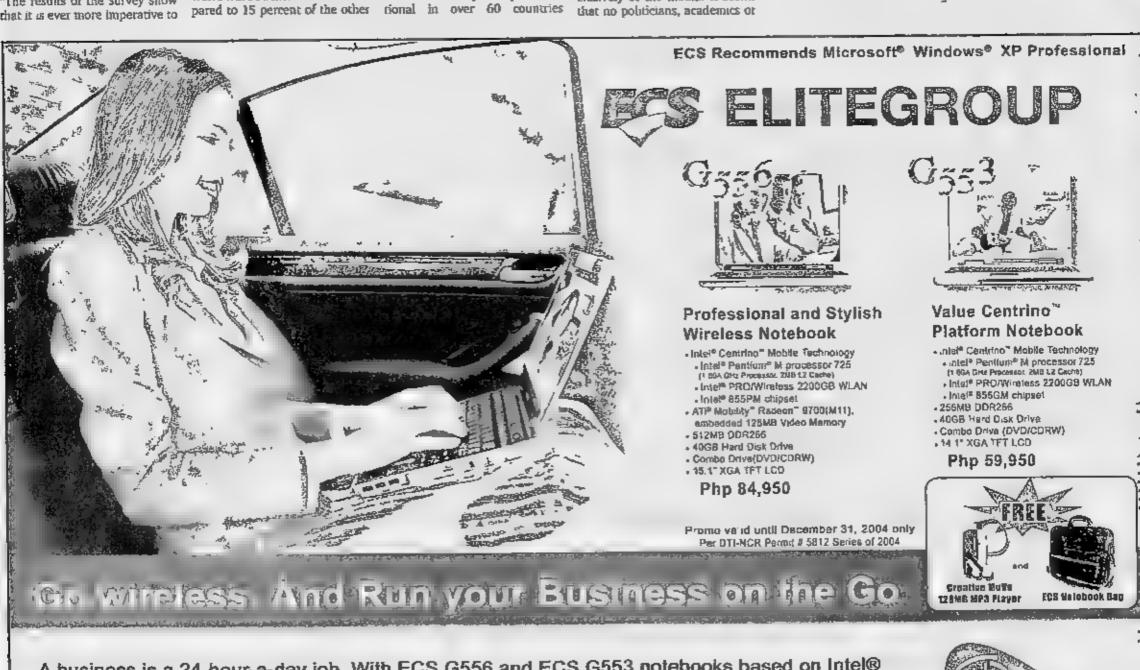
Marked contrast

The Voice of the Leaders survey on future prosperity is in marked contrast to the view of the Voice of the People survey released last

While 65 percent of the leaders expect a more prosperous future, only 33 percent of the people surveyed expect more economic prosperity. About 36 percent of the people expect the economy to worsen, while only 27 percent of the leaders are similarly pes-

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In Loving Memory of our dearly beloved

MARIA "Bayang" E FERNANDEZ

On the occasion of bee 1st Death Anniversary on December 6, 2004

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Turke City Sanussinte Rosario Church, UST, Manila 5:15 PM Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, Loyola Heights, Q.C. 6:30 PM Presentation of the Chila Jesus Parish, BF Parinaque. 6:30 PM 5:45 AM St. Joseph Parish, Pittsburgh, PA. USA

Special Masses will be offered in the following Churches: 8:30 AM

Passed away in the Grace of the Lord on December 4, 2004 at the age of 83.

His bereaved wife RESECCA NECESTTO GUIVELONDO of Asingan Pangasiaest, daughter GRETEL MAY GUIVELONDO, Blanco Family, San Jose Family, Guivelondo Family, Salgado Family: other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body Bes in state at Arlington Memorial Chapela, Araneta Avesue, Ouezog City

Interment will be on December 9, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikusa City at 1 30 p.m.



An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

B:00 AM

11 30 AM

INQUIRER OBITHARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

@ Copy of Death Certificate; @ Any identification document (L.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT - MESSAGE OF THANKS ncare analysis and - exceptions - Past (1841 of Exem

So Lexingly Bouwahered On the 22nd Death Analyersary of

HILLIGE FELLING VICTOR ELLINKING

ol San Patrio City and Kidapawan City Hely Masses will be offered at the following Churches: San Pablo Cathesiral, San Pablo City 6:00 a m. Our Lady Mediatriz Church, Keliper 600am.

6:00 p.sp. Market Street Street Street 6:00 a.m. St. Genevieve Church, Panorarus Clb 6:00 a.m

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

160m 1416

om the Resurrection and the Life whoever believes in Me. though he dies, shall live." In Loving Memory of Masser will be offered tomorrow, Tuesday on the 12th authorstry of his death. December 7, 2004 St. Jerome Church/Sta. Susana Parish ... 6:20 a.m. Ayalo Alabang, Muntiniupa City Our Lady of Perpetual Help 6:30 a.m. (Redemptorist Chorch), Buclama, Paradoque Chy St. Andrew the Apostle Parish N. Garcia St. cor. Kalaysan Ava., Bol- Air il., Mukati City Our Lady of Mount Curred ... Broadway Street, New Manifa, Quezon City 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica San Lorenza Rutz 7:30 a.m. Biocodo, Manila Minor Bastilea of the Lumaculate Conception (Manila Cathedral), Intramuros, Mantia Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage Antipolo, Rizal Sto. Niño de Tondo Paris Toodo, Manile Missor Busilies of the Black Nazarene 12:15 p.m. Plaza Muranda, Quinpo, Manila Santaario de San Antonio 12:.5 p.m. McKroley Road, North Forbes Park, Makati City St. James the Great 12 5 pan. Cueses St., Ayais Alabang, Mantinhapa City Makail Medical Center Chapel ... 4:00 p.m. 9F Makan Medjoul Center, Makan City San Agustin Charch 5:30 p.nt. Gen. Long Sweet, Intramuros, Manila

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PRUBENTIALIFE FORED

INCOME FUND, INC. SERIES OF 2004 OFFICE Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and other papers and documents attached thereto itself to and on behalf of PRUDENTIALIFE FIXED INCOME FUND. BYC. the Commission in its meeting of November 25, 2004 resolved to approve the registration of said corporation as an investment complimy under the Investment Company Act and its terptomenting Rules and Regulations and to render effective its Registration Stellantent covering the Two Hundred Million (200,000,000) common shares under the

Lat this ORDER be outsitated at the expense of the corporation once a week for two (2) consecutive viscols in two-(2) newspapers of general circulation to the Philippines within ten (10) days from days hereof. The corporation is the stifictory of publication of the ORDER

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Hackers deface PAL website

By Erwin Oliva Contributor

THE PHILIPPINE Airlines (PAL) website fell victim last week to a mass defacement done by a hacker group called "kernel attack."

According to a post on a the weblog (www.phackers.org) of the Internet Security and Warfare (ISAW), "This group is believed to be from Brazil. In one day alone, Zone-h recorded 47 attacks by this group." ISAW monitors hacking attacks in the Philippines.

Kernel attack was among the top 50 defacers based on a ranking at of hacking attacks internationally.

The PAL website was down for more than 36 hours, according to Robert Diaz de Rivera, PAL senior assistant vice president for corporate e-

The PAL website is used by travelers to book flights using their credit cards, check promos, and log on to their account if they are members of the arrine's frequent flyers club

Rivera, however, assured that the foreign hackers managed to deface only the homepage and the "unsecured" web pages of PAL website. The

zone-h.org, a website that keeps track arrlines' database, including its online frequent flier and e-ticketing system, was unaffected. The PAL website was unavailable for most of the day Tuesday last week after the defacement. It was operating normally Wednesday.

US-based NTT Verio is the website host of PAL. The autines uses a content management system to update the website's homepage every day, he said.

Portunately, PAL received only a few e-mail complaints' from customers following the web defacement. The "monetary" damage to the airline's website was "minimal," the

'Blog' enters

the dictionary

BLOG, a contraction of the term "web log," is

the fatest geekspeak to enter Merriam-Web-

On its website, the US dictionary publisher said blog, defined as "a website that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments and often hyperlinks provided by the writer," was the most searched word on

Merriam Webster compiles the list each year. This year, "blog" was the number one

Blog or biogging is a recent phenomenon that has made website publishing easier. Fopular blog hosting services, such as blogspot.com, have spawned millions of personal blogs that contains every imaginable subject matter. People create blogs to spread news and gossip, critique media and even share photos with friends. Media and corporations have used blogs to provide updated views on vari-

Recently, blogging has spawned so-called MP3blogs that feature free sample music in MP3 format, personal reviews, and links to

Blog will be a new entry in the 2005 version of the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dectionary, Eleventh Edition. The complete list of words of the year is available at Merriam-Web-

John Barger comed the term "web log" in December 1997. In 1999, Peter Merholz

Usage of the word spread during 1999 and the word was popularized by Pyra's creation

As of March 2003, the Oxford English Dictionary has included the terms weblog, we-

Erwin Oliva

coined the shorter version "blog"

of their weblog service "Blogger."

blogging and weblogger

ster's Top-10 list of words for 2004.

the Internet this year.

word in "online look-ups."

ous issues affecting them.

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"Technology is the foundation of future economic development"

"Technology is the foundation of future economic development," said President Gloria Macapagel-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address eartier this year.

In line with her ten-point agenda for national development.

President Arroyo has tapped several government prosnizations to "modernize and disseminate knowledge lo upgrade technologies and increase people's

To follow through on this point, the Commission on information and Communication Technology (CiCT) was formed to embark on programs and projects that Intel is fully

would increase the rate of PC Technology awareness and adoption across key sectors of the country. 'The People's PC program launched last month with intel®, the world's largest chipmaker, is the latest in a series of initiatives by

The People's PC program is the first personal computer ownership program in the Philippines and aims to make affordable, highquality PCs available to all Filipinos.

"We are tally committed to assisting the government in its PC Ownership Program," said Intel Microelectronics, Phils., Inc. Country Manager Ricky Baruag.

enhance the lives of Filipinos so they can be productive," said Banaag es he emphasized Intel's wish to enable Filiphos with the tools they need to

experience technology. "With the right tools such as a desidop PC with an Intel processor, Filipinos will be able to fully optimize their time, energy and skills."

inial microprocessors - the brain and engine of a PC that determines its speed and power - have been at the heart of the PC revolution for over 20 years now. As such, Intel is constantly innovating because it believes the technology we invent today will shape the world's future.

If you are interested in acquiring a People's PC, please visit eny branch of PC Express, Silicon Valley, VillMan and Thinking Tools.

Home theater We want to improve and enhance the in a box We want to Improve and lives of Filipmos so they can be productive" By Alexander Villafania

Contributor

I THINK the Asus W1000 (W1N in other markets) should stay on a table and be used as a home theater device-probably because it is one. The monitor is just 15.4" but is designed for wide-screen use. It has a 16.10 aspect ratio, which is the same as the widescreen movies in DVDs. There is little glare and the video quality is nearly as good as that of an LCD or even a plasma TV. It is also outfitted with a 64 megabyte ATI Mobility Radeon 9600 graphics engine. There is very little lag even when playing DVDs or even the most memory-intensive game. There is a VGA port and a 15-pin mini D-sub socket for connecting an external monitor or the TV.

it also comes with four stereo speakers on the top panel and a down firing subwoofer undemeath the body. These speakers, however, show nonceable distortion in certain audio frequencies. Still, I consider that as a trade-off since they are built into a tightly packed case. its bass reproduction is still better than most notebooks in the same class. The sound is clisp enough for you to hear the booms, bangs and rumbles. The notebook also includes an auxiliary audio connector and an S/PDIF socket for attachment to a surround speaker setup or to an amplifier. It is also good to know that Asias included a credit-card sized remote control so you don't have to reach for the keyboard when you're already enjoying a film.

The W1000 comes with an Intel Pentium 1 7GHz Centrino processor and an 855 chipset for wireless connectivity. It also has 512 megabytes of memory Storage includes 80 gigabytes of hard disk, a 4-speed DVD writer and an integrated card reader for portable SD, MMC and memory sticks. The usual clicking and whirring sounds heard in most notebooks' hard disk and DVD drive are absent in this notebook. They also do not overhent as fast. The internal cooling fans are also efficient and are quiet.

The W1000 is no laggard when it comes to battery. At full charge, the unit could last three and a half hours when idle.

Overail, the Asus W1000 is bost described as a mobile home theater system and a headturner. The W1000 trails behind in some hardware features. But what it lacks in some physical specifications, it makes up for its home theater features.

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WHAT GOV'T NEEDS TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

Surplus of political will, deficit of politics

Russes Banez generate the desired revenues

Russes Banez generate the desired revenues

Contributor

SIXTEEN tax measures are pending with the House of Representatives. Two were recently passed and transmitted to the Senate. Two are calendared for plenary debate. And the rest are still pending with the ways and means committee. It is expected rious tax problems: low tax complithat Congress will approve at least four to five measures on or before May 2005. With a threat of about by having a complicated tax a downgrade rating, the Executive is urging Congress to pass at least two measures before the year ends.

All of these measures are intended to generate estimated revenues of P80 billion or roughly 2 percent increase in the tax effort ratio to gross domestic product (GDP).

The twin fiscal problems that we face now are the budget deficit and the increasing public sector debt. Addressing these problems requires immediate attention and decisive action. The political leadership must be prepared in making hard, difficult, fearless, uncompromising and even unpopular decisions. We cannot afford no less.

What are the rating agencies looking for in government in response to these issues?

My educated guess is that government should out in place a sustainable tax system that will

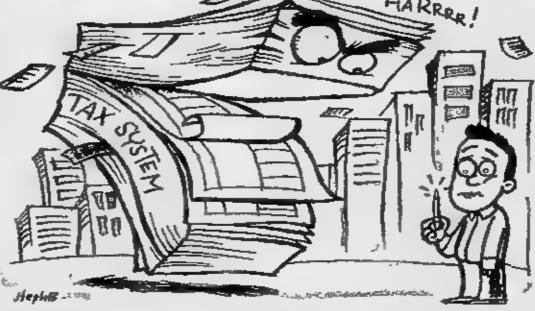
and contribute to achieving a balanced budget within a period of four to six years.

Sustainable tax system

The big question is how do we. create a sustainable tax system?

Let us first examine what we have. I believe that we face two seance and weak tax enforcement. These two problems are brought system. Our system of taxation in the country is a self-assessment system which means that it is incumbent upon a person earning an income to declare his income and pay the correct tax. However, since our tex system is complicated and has many soopholes, tax compliance becomes difficult and taxpayers take advantage of avoiding and even evading their tax liabilities. Moreover, the complication of the tax system makes tax administration and enforcement more difficult. This problem is further compounded by many institutional constraints facing the tax regulatory agencies.

We can address the problem by making our tax system simple. But how simple is simple? At the moment, I will not dwell on the specifics and mechanics. I will unit my discourse on the philosophy of the problem. A simple tax system should have simple text



requirements, simple and easyto-fill tax returns, and simple and convenient way of payment. These should be complemented by improving taxpayers' service, i.e. assisting taxpayers on how they should comply. With a simple tax system, it is expected that administration will be easier and enforcement more effective, and tax compliance better.

Evaluating the measures

1 propose the following criteria be considered in evaluating whether the proposed tax measures ment approval.

1. Simple. The tax law should be

rules and processes, with simple simple so that taxpayers understand the rules and can comply correctly and in a cost-efficient manner, and simply administered at the least cost to the government.

2. Pair Similarly situated taxpayers should be taxed similarly but equitably. 3. Enforceable. The tax law

should be implementable. A tax some serious defects on how to relaw is good only when it is en-

4. Predictable. The tax system should enable the government to determine how much tax revenue will be collected and when they will be collected.

5. Sustainable. The tax system should be capable to collect the performance, you need to give the

desired revenue for government for a much longer period.

Proposed measures

Let me just provide brief comments on some of the proposed tax measures.

The lateral attrition bill is laudable in its objectives but it suffers alize its objectives. It is a carrot and stick bill which proposes to reward performers and penalize non-performers. But how do we encourage performance? Is government providing the proper resources and the right incentives for government people to perform? To exact

right tools and sufficient resources, the appropriate incentives, with the right processes, with the right people, with the right competencies and with a lean and mean organization. To make people accountable you have to measure their performance.

This will not be the first time that we will have a legislated amnesty if ever Congress approves it. Why legislate if the objective is simply to raise revenues? Can not our regulatory agencies offer sumilar amnesties though administrative in nature? What is the real reason behind this bill? A tevisit of the past administrations will show that all have some form of tax amnesties, legislated or administrative. With all these tax anmesties, have we improved our capacities to monitor the sources of income of taxpayers and seen to it that they pay the correct taxes? Perhaps one explanation why we have low tax compliance is because taxpayers anticipate future tax amnesties. Tax amnesty is not the answer to our declining revenues. The answer is to overhaul our tax system.

The growth of the telecommunications industry in the country is phenomenal. The industry players are performing well because they are well managed. And they are doing their share in national development through the taxes that they

SURPLUS/ B2-2



Name Jord Cole. på







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Business Monday ...

Nurture the good to create an asset

By Amy R. Remo

MANAGING over a thousand sales agents and keeping them competent and loyal to the company is no easy feat. Specially if the survival of the company relies heavily on them.

This is why, according to Cocopians president Caesar T. Michelena, the company treats its sales people as customers.

"At Cocoplans, we treat sales people as our internal customers, while plan holders are our external customers," Michelena tells the Inquitest.

Set up in October 1994, Cocoplans is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the United Coconut Planters Bank Group. It sells pension and educational plans and ranks among the top ten in the pre-need industry.

"A pre-need company is like a marketing company-its most important ingredient for success is having a strong and productive sales organization," says Michelena, who explains that sales people are also the front mers of the company, who create and sufficient materials.



MICHELENA

and maintain relationships with clients.

Unfortunately, most companies view sales people as those who will not last in an organization. As a result, they are not provided with adequate training

and earn only on a commission basis, they can leave the company anytime they want.

This kind of thinking, according to Michelena, has been the premise of the

"It's a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you believe that they will not last, your behavior towards them will show it," says Michelena. "You get what you expect."

Setting a standard

Cocopians, however, opted to break away from this norm.

"I believe one of the standards we've set is about dealing with sales people," explains Michelena, "We're looking for a long term commitment and this is where we base most of our business practices."

He says they are very stringent in their admission of sales people. Only about 30 percent of the applicants are admitted.

Each applicant attends an orientation and a five-session trial period. He then undergoes several interviews, one of

Since they are not regular employees which is conducted by Michelena himself. If a sales associate does not reach his monthly quota for six consecutive

months, they take him out. "This may seem contradictory about our wanting to have a long-term commitment. But we also have a standard they need to meet, so they can stay with

us," he says. "Another standard we have set was the full computerization of the company which was uncommon in 1994,"

says Michelena. Back then, when the top of the line computer was an Intel 486 and most programs are still DOS-based, a lot of fresh graduates were still not familiar

with the computer. But we needed the efficiency of the computer to avoid the mental ciercal tasks. Employees would have more time

for more productive tasks," he says. He adds that Cocoplans was probably one of the first in the pre-need industry NURTURE/82-3



FROM left: Alejandro Padilia, member of the foundation's board of directors; Jaza and Patti Lyons

Jaza conferred Humanitarian Service Award

AYALA Corp. president/CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II (Jaza) was recently conferred the Consuelo Award for Humanitarian Service by Consuelo Foundation president and CEO Patty J. Lyons.

Jaza heads the oldest, largest and most diversified business conglomerate in the Philippines. As co-vice chair of the Ayala Foundation, he has been active in developing the Ayala Youth Leadership Program and Centex. He is vice chair of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) He spearheaded the Children's Hour millennium campaign that raised mulions for disadvantaged children and youth. As chair of the Chudren and Youth Foundation of the Philippines in its formative years, he was instrumental in shaping the Phiappine Out-of-School-Youth Program, a more becaution of the April L. Lance the content and the World sand and arrive his BA degree in Economics (cum laude) from The supplied was seen by the things of the state of the s in the want the was Echrol in 1947.

The four recipients of the Humanitarian Service Awards were cited by the Consuelo Foundation for their "unwavering commitment to the cause of improving the lives of Fiipino children, women, families and communities" as well as "their dedication and devotion to both Consuelo Foundation's mission and to many other NGOs, deeply felt and appreciated throughout the country."

The three other recipients of the Consuelo Awards for Humanitarian Service are: Ambassador Bienven do Tan Jr., Unionbank chair and CEO Justo Ortiz and Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) director Dr. Mary Racelis. Also given at the ceremonies were the Consuelo Award of Distinction and the Consueio Award of Highest Excellence.

From page B2-1

they are doing well, the government wants them to give more than what they are currently paying. The proposal is to impose franchise tax on their income apart from the 10 percent value added tax (VAT). Is this fair and equitable?

The other proposal is to replace VAT with franchise tax. More than 10 years ago, the franchise tax was replaced by VAT. VAT has been regarded as the superior business tax system. Tax experts worldwide c.a.m the rise of the VAT is an unparalleled tax phenumeron. Every continent now uses the VAT, and each year sees new countries introducing it. In fact, the United States is seriously considering VAT to replace their sales tax. The audit mechanism of the output input feature of the VAT can easily provide the revenue authoraty an effective tool to further increase ats collections. This benefit should be maximized and further improved. Will this initiative of replacing the VAT system widen the tax base or sumply complicate tax compliance and enforcement? The message is, if ain't broke don't fix it. The question is, why penalize companies which are doing we.17

Remove discretion ••

I witnessed in many occasions the ups and anyma të passar da rehma lu sur sti stir Yu will never have real excise tax reform unless we remove the sources of discretion of both the excise taxpayers and enforcers. The key is the removal of the different categories of products in the law. By doing this, we will sim-

plify both tax compliance and enforcement. A review of the various tax proposals will indicate that there is no comprehensive and housing work plan to address the fisca, probem. It also demonstrates that government has no right diagnosis of the extent of the problem. I believe this is what these rating agencies and our creditors are looking for. Unjess they are convinced that the proposed tax measures are the right prescriptions to our country's fiscal malady, a downgrade in our rating is expected. We can still avert this sceand the date of high that parts in the M iscal problem necessitates bolt, and howeld approach. The solutions should be sustainable. I begeve that our government is still canable of making throot hopmon if we have a

and paints are annivers to consider Recently, the Supreme Court has bravely is operated the position paid to make a resea and apriorance the commutationally of the mining law. Now, it is the turn of the President and Congress. The people are watching, They have faith in you. Please do not fail as. But ALL of us must do OLR share if we are to move our country forward. And the time is

(The author is a former commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue)

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Nurture ...

From page 82-2

to be fully computerized at that time.

Covey's principles

All employees and sales people are also required to take the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" seminar, which Michelena personally conducts.

With his more than 20 years of experience in sales, Michelena also applies the key principles espoused by Stephen Covey, renowned author of The 7 Habits, in order to better understand the needs of his sales force.

He especially believes in the principle that says people are inherently good.

Michelena explains you have to look at a per-son as a whole. You have to take the good with

the bad and nurture this good part so it'll be an as-set to your company. That's the premise for every individual—that they are normally trustworthy.

"If you deal with people with this frame of mind, I believe that the inherent goodness would come out," says Michelena. They have, however, rules and controls to

maintain standards. But they make sure that these do not stiffe the individual. The slightest hart of hanky panky is dealt with seriously. Aside from having a code of discipline, the

company has a committee on sales discipline to take care of complaints against the sales people. Michelena also believes in another principle espoused by Covey, which says that competition, by itself, is not good. Each department and branch in

an organization should be interdependent. Michelena says very few of their incentives are compenition-based. Most incentives are awarded to those who hit certain performance levels. One of the few contests Cocoplans has as the Annual Performance Excellence Award, to

recognize the year's best sales performers. "I don't encourage internal competition like which branch yields the highest number of planboiders," says Michelena. "People shouldn't aim to outdo each other within an organization."

Competition with other players in the industry, of course, is another thing.

Cocoplans today

Michelena admits income is not as good nowadays for the whole pre-need industry because the economy is not doing good.

Also, certain new regulations set by the Securities and Exchange Commission are hurting the industry such as the trust fund assumption.

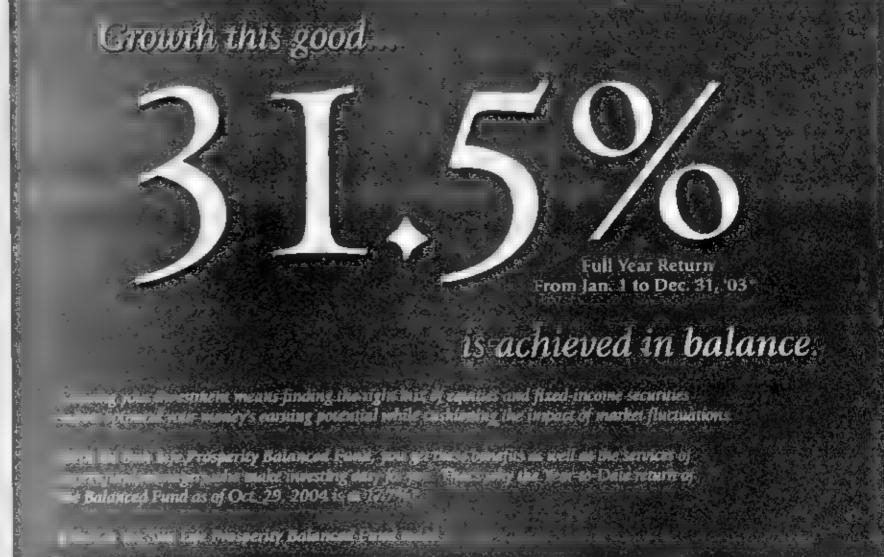
But Michelena is optimistic that the company will grow by 58 percent in sales this year and targets to grow by almost 100 percent next year. Last year, Cocoplans made about 24 per-

cent return on equity and is expecting about 22 percent for this year. The reason for this, he says, is that Cocoplans is not hurting as much as the rest with the new rules in place.

He adds while many companies are reeling the new regulations, Cocoplans is not as af-fected since it has been implementing some of these new rules ever since.

"It is good to know that we've done our basic foundational work at the start. Like in the story of the three little pigs, we made sure our house was built with rocks. Although we are affected, we know we will not collapse," says Michelena.

He adds: "This makes us now the company of choice. Who knows, we may become No. I in the future. It is not, however, an objective but rather



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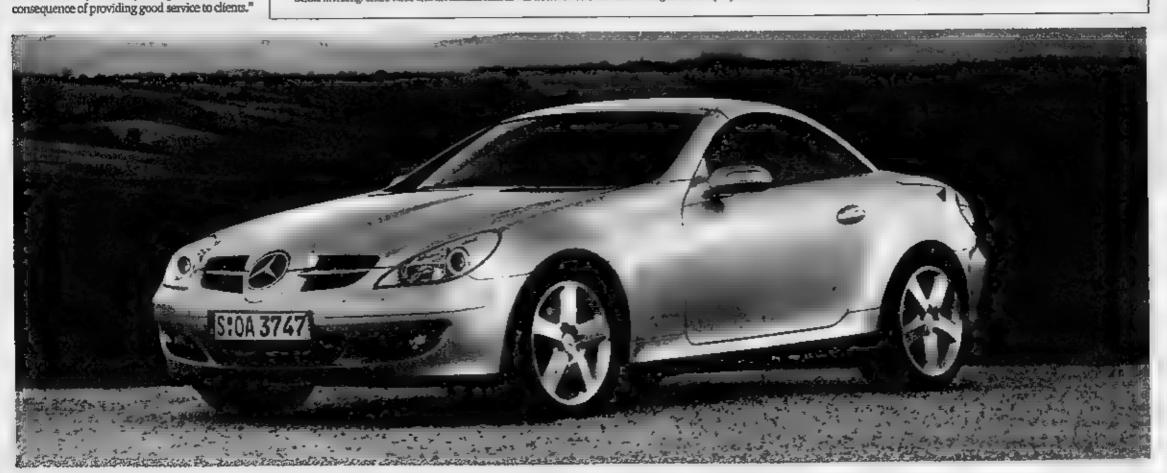


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BUSINESSMonday

Practical wisdom from the MAP conference

MANY businesses are experiencing severe difficulties during this prolonged economic crists and from growing intense competition of globalization.

in fact, many firms are forced to make tough decisions to brace themselves for the future and for some, their very own survival.

Recognizing the major issues of many CEOs, the MAP together with Smart, copresented the third in a series of CEO conferences, "Survive and Excel in Turbuient Times" with a line-up consisting of some of the best minds in the subject.

The conference attracted a bumper crop of 425 delegates, the highest ever in the history of the MAP CEO Conference BBC's Rico Hizon gave a most creative

presentation, as he made us feel as though we were at the British television. studios with him while he was giving us the scoop on the Philippine economy.

Instead of a single viewpoint, Rico gave us different assights called from Franco G. video chips of interviews with the region's economists.

All in all, the conference was given extremely high marks by the delegates. Delegates ranked the MAP CEO Conference as either excellent or very good in the categories of theme (98 percent); speakers (94 percent), and topics (90 percent).

Dr. Frank Ashby

One of the speakers that received out-

MAPPING THE FUTURE

del Rosario



THE QUEEN CITY OF THE

standing marks in the delegates evaluations was the featured conference speaker, Dr. Frank Ashby. He shared the following four out of 10 findings conducted in 26 countries by the University of amid the chaos. Michigan with other consulting firms and the Wall Street Journal.

1 The single biggest complaint of

they're unappreciative.

2. The most commonly observed characteristic of outstanding organizational cultures is an above-average investment in employee training.

3. When operating in turbulent, uncertain times, most people tend to become more self-centered and self-absorbed.

4. Those that excel in turbulent, uncertain times tend to be all of the fol-

Get good at sensing opportunity

 Become more flexible and more accepting of inevitable changes.

· Place a premium on demonstratworkers have about their managers is ing strong, visionary leadership and es-

tablishing clear objectives.

Get mileage at no cost

I would like to address two from the above list. Personally, I feel the single biggest issue that can give you a lot of mileage that does not cost anything is showing more appreciation. Perhaps it would be relevant to mention some guidelines in giv-

First rule is that it must be done sincerely! Instrucere praise is worse than no praise at all. It insults the receiver, cheapens the speaker's comments and causes loss of cred,-

Second, give praise on time, It is not "Better late than never"; instead communicate praise shortly after the act Praise should be based on specifics, as it gives words more substance, enforces the outcomes to nurture.

For example, "Your report was effective and to the point." It should not be, "You're a great person."

Third, praise in public. Recognizing a person in the presence of their peers gives it more impact and encourages others to do better.

Give people freedom

The other issue I wish to address is the third in the same 4-point listing above, "during turbulent and uncertain times most people tend to become more self-centered and self-absorbed.* Our tendency to become more dictatorial may come out more with the uncertainty. We may fall into thinking, "we know best." This has a demoralizing effect on people.

Involve, include, invite

We need to understand clearly our organization's culture. Instead of spoon feeding each step to our people, it may be better for us to instill in them a desire for excellence. Creating a condition where employees say what's on their mind would reduce our tendency to

If we give people greater freedom to decide how to do one's work, or at least allow them to propose ideas and implement meaningful changes in their work, this will make them feel they "own" their work. Only people who own their work, really care and get excited

The key is to clarify the objectives; then, step aside and provide support and guidance when needed. If our staff knows their boundaries, they will help ensure control and consistency.

Rather than being self-absorbed, we need to have unwavering faith that our firm will prevail regardless of the difficulty. We need to look for ways to involve, include and invite our people to do better still with every triumph

Lastly, let's not forget to use our creativity in trying to make work fun as much as possible, particularly during turbulent times. An atmosphere of hin will reduce the tension and keep our people's morale high!

Remember, it is within the power of Filipmos to mold the future. Our naturally endowed country can be as great as we make it! No the English process. The constant of the process to solve; no challenge too great)

CBD sur-y

I wish to thank everyone who attended the conference and a special thanks to those that participated in the "CEO Survey." The purpour war of find on a short of man wife egates were dealing with.

There are five key points from the CEO surwas time as survive militared times, some companies are finding themselves having to make people-related changes. Most fall in the speed on a "genting stant person on the line." "gerting wrong people off the bus," "putting them in right seats."

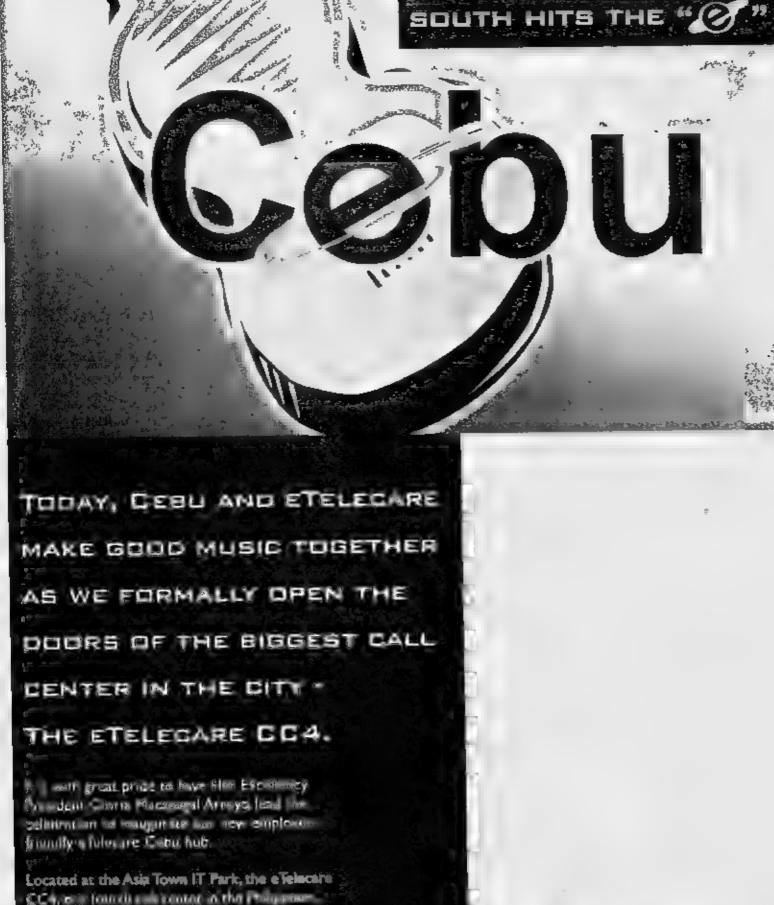
the property and there are a done the conpreparing to get wrong people off the bus They indicated revising their performance appraisal systems such as making their comremaind the partition of partition and a drive

The technical game (b)) con(e) sensone dans up the pune service as the the same that was to be been about. Three, nine out of 10 of the 192 conference delegates that participated in the survey said their No. 1 frustration was wrong people nomen of the state of the state of the state of the attendees are not "victim mentality" people. Only 20 percent offered the poor economy as their No. 1 frustration, followed by 15 percent who were most frustrated finding the

Five, the delegates identified a total of 46 business opportunities. The single biggest business opportunity was oursourcing, largely owing to the Philippines as a source of an inexpensive but experienced and English speaking labor which is seen by many foreign firms as a prime country advantage to increase their bottom line.

The conference was full of positive energy, as the messages of the speakers brought new revelations and opportunities to the delegates. People came away enriched, feeling upbest and filled with a new zeal and hope as the speakers challenged them to reach farther, ready to make a difference.

(The author is chair of the MAP CBO Conference Committee and managing consultant and CEO of Six Sigma Consulting. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)



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BUISINESS SMONDAY Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Make bosses and workers see eye to eye

HOW DO we bring out the best in their jobs," she said. employees? How do you make them embrace the concepts of quality and excellence at work freely?

For the country's workforce to compete globally, perhaps the Employee Council Association of the Philippines (Ecap) Foundation Inc. can help in enabling employees reach their potential by empowering them to contribute positively to the betterment of the company. This is possible only when employees can identify with the company they belong to and enjoy a sense of ownership of their

jobs. For six years now, Ecap has been adhering to the principle of partnership between employers and employees by creating employee councils or ECs. An EC is an association within a company that regards employees within as partners and associates enjoined to work for

a common goal. Conceptually unique, an EC, invariably called a famfly councit or employee relations' council, has its own structure, system and philosophy.

As a structure, all employees in the company have an equal opportunity to he selected as employee council representatives (ECRs). The president or CEO of the company, himself considered an employee, is represented in the council through the senior management representative and a management appointee.

As a system, it has a charter that defines the principles and dynamics that will govem interaction between managers and employees. As a philosophy, it follows the tradition unique to Filipinos, the bayanthan, which is not just helping others in need but embodies commument, mutual support, unity and servant leadership.

"An EC is a pro-active approach to human relations which is an idea whose time has come," according to Ecap Founding Gioria president "Gerhe" B. Sonano, an organizational development (OD) consultant for 24 years and exposed to quality management and practices via her membersh.p with the Philippine Society for Quality and the Asia Pacific Quality Organization.

"EC brings true empowerment of the employees because they are treated as partners or associates, not just as one of the factors of production," she pointed out. It is in this principle of "shared servant leadersh.p," she added, that employees become productive, and hence, able to deliver quality products or services.

An outstanding feature of the organization is its charter, which works inherently with an ethics system in place of the traditional grievance system. "Ethics is everything that governs the civil zed relations or people. Here we are not just focusing on the rights of the employees, but their accountability

benefits program. In EC, we don't talk money because it's assumed that management knows its obligations under the law but we do have a welfare and benefits program. In listing the welfare and benefits, the council thinks of the common good done through a survey in the entire company,"

Ecap has been introducing this concept for interested compames, which they can adopt, she

their affairs with their employ- in the growth of the members by with more than P20 billion in as- healthcare industry, has already Another is the welfare and ees. Any company with no formal employees association can form an EC and be a member of Ecap. Organizing an EC involves a simple process: orientation, selection of officers, leadership workshop, writing of charter and strategic planning. Monitoring, implementation and evaluation cap the process.

Once the EC is in place, the company becomes a member of the association. The company is represented in the association by emphasized, as a "strategic its EC chair and vice chair for exchoice" to help them manage ternal affairs. Ecap, in turn, helps

continuous programs such as quality management workshops, leadership training, counseling, to date. coaching, sharing best practices, legal education, and fellowships.

Some of the member companies of Ecap have reported amazsince making a "strategic choice" to build an BC within their organizations.

One of these is East West Bank, which, from a relatively short period of 10 years, has become one of the fast growing full service

sets and 64 branches serving a client base of more than 140,000

EWB president and CEO Efrey T. Ramos attributes this astounding growth to its employees.

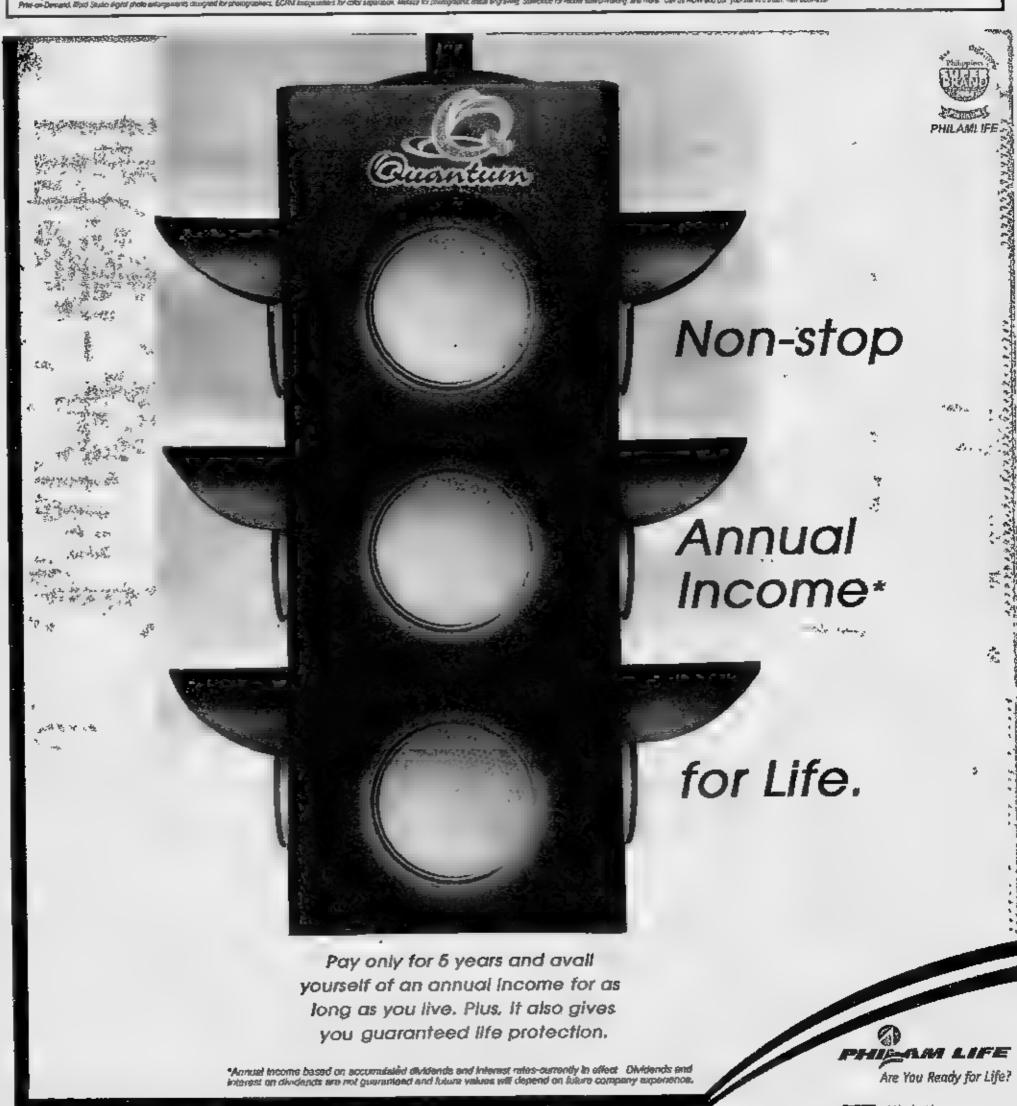
The bank, through an ERC, ing changes in their operations has created an environment wherein employees can freely express their views, opinions and concerns without fear or reprisal," be said.

Another company, SC&C Cosmetech Co., attests to the value of EC. The company, a manufacturcommercial banks in the country, er of quality products in the

won eight prestigious Supplier of the Year Award and has over the years kept on expanding. From a 200 square meters factory, it now operates a 3,000-sq.m. factory They are well motivated and well trained to meet the very strict quality standards of our customers. We have an Employee Council where people's we fare, are given importance," SC&C-Cosmetech president Roberto Serrano said.

For inquiries on Ecop, call (0920) 920-2388 or email glorta8888ph@yahov.com.

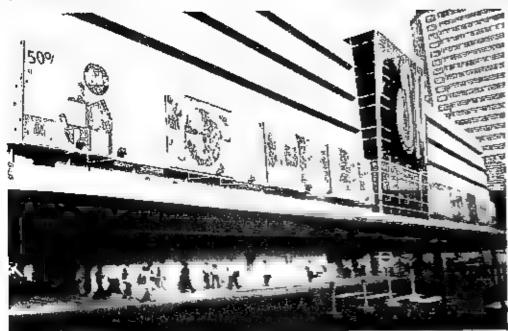




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BUSINESSMonday



THE SM retail group including the department store was named the Retail of the Year by the Retail Group Magazine

Retail Asia names SM top Philippine retailer

pines' Top Retailer during the Retail Asia Pacific Top 500 Awards held recently in Singapore. It is the first set of regional awards for the retail industry.

The event is a partnership of the prestigious retai. Asia Publishing Group (organizer), with Euromonitor International and KP-MG as Principal Program Partners.

Top Retailer Awards-Gold, Silver, or Bronze-were given to the top three retail companies in 14 markets-Australia. China Hongkong, India, Indonesia. Japan. Korea. Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Sing (pore, Thailand Taiwan and Vietnam

Retail Asia's executive cha. Sreven () says that the awards "celebrate the sterling qualities of these great to a ere that have made them the mans of the mans tv-A is an ary entrepreneurship, compelling viene proposition, great customer relationship management, cutting edge technology, excellent management, and operating process.".

SM's retail group received the Gold Award for the Philippines, while mercury Drug and Rustans won the Silver and Broaze awards, respectively.

"Our stores are focused on iddressing the ever changing needs and to see at the

tomers," says SM president Teresita

Sy-Coson In a country where shopping is a passion, SM's reta.! stores have not only created shopping excitement, but also influenced Lifestyles of genera-

tion of Filipmos. The SM Group was founded in 1958 by Henry Sy St., who is considered the vinow y di Phospilio new laws the of the transport a chieffe Jones Today 6553 retail network consists of its departmont store chain, as tonia di maliferativo della chine were finting All the contract and appliance cenpers SM also has samerchies with Watsons, a member Hongkong s Hutchison Whampoa SLO7b

SM's Department Store chain is at the heart of its retail network with 21 stores in Metro Manila and other key cities in the Philippines. With its exciting merchandise mix and broad market base, it has everything for everyone and has become everything to everyone, as best expressed in its "we've got it ail" slogan. Considered the innovator and trendsetter in the Philippine retail scene, it has had a remarkas.e influence on local fash on and l,festyle trends, mak no it a part of the l/== a treaty gil. Priting

SM's retail group also has specialty store formats that serve niche markets - minima was with assortment of a merchandise category. Current.y total.ng 100 stand alone stores, these concepts include a chain supermarkets serving a wide range of customer prefer-

THE SM Retail Group was named the Philipences; hypermarkets that give customers great choices and great prices, and appliance centers that are strong in offering top brands and customer satisfaction.

Other store concepts within the group include home lifestyle stores (Our Home), fashion discount shops (Surplus Shop), sports stores (Sportscentral), baby specialists (Baby & Company) and toy superstores (Toy Kinedom).

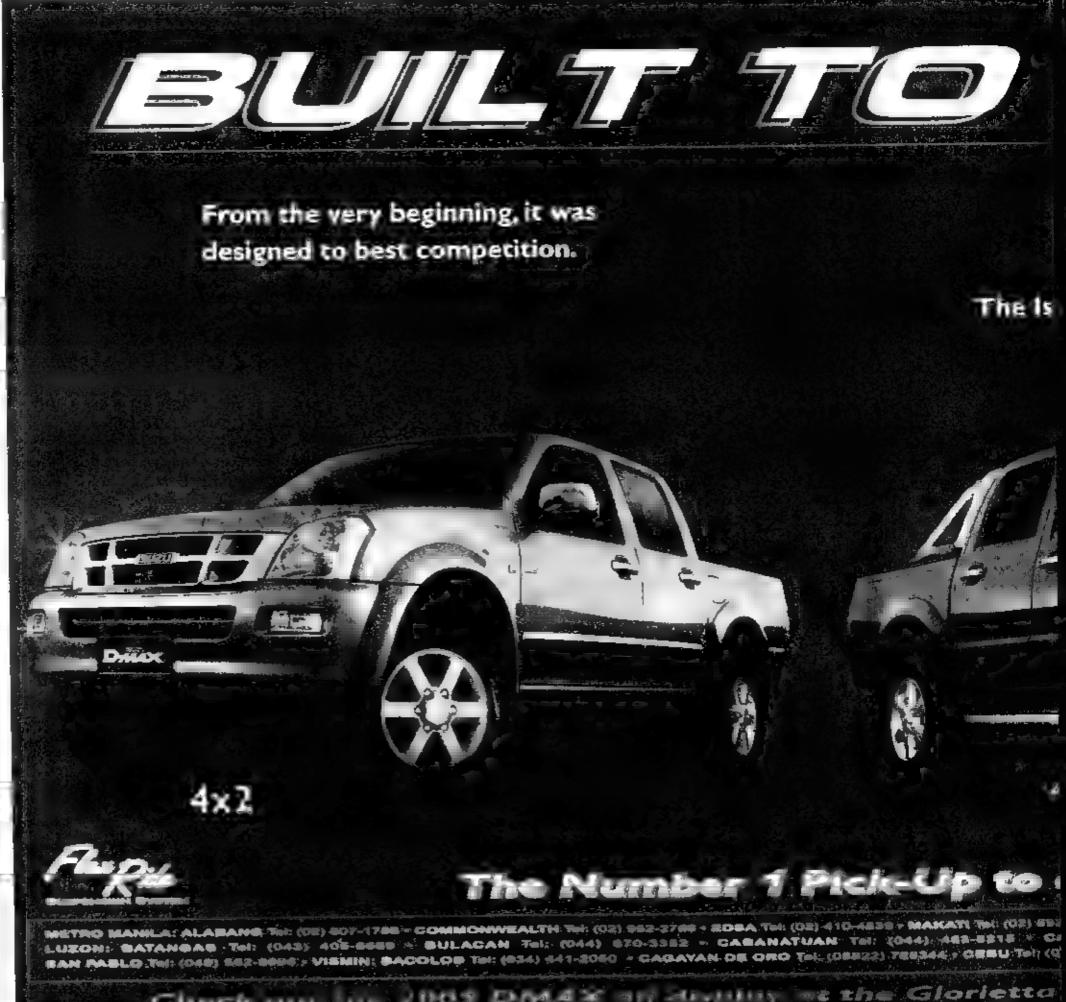
SM's frequence with ACL Haroware and port fership with Warsons occount to an iddinonal (9 hasaware and 104 personal care

New stores, range attons and renovations in existing out et i ma over il sustaned consomer continence in the Philippines a vemade growth ranging from 5-26 possible for SM's retail aroup in 2003.

In randem with the aggressive ex sus son plogram of as shipping center group, SM continues to expand as retained and the the department store and notic store or mats. It commodby removeds as 200 seepup with the changing times by updating its merchandise, store design, and features. marketing concepts and customer service SM , sc as six a recting go but the point of sale and backroom operations in Carnellos



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BusinessMonday

Firm helps 'STARS' to read

CALTEX Philippines, Inc. answered the call of corporate responsibility anew when it recently held the Caltex Mentor Program (CMP) recognition ceremonies at the Andres Bomfacio Integrated School (Abis), in Welfareville Compound, Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, A total of 120 students at nsk ("STARS") were mentored by 63 volunteers from Caltex's various business partners.

A first in Mandaluyong City, Caltex's flagship volunteer program was put into operation

in partnership with the Mandaluyong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), the Mandaluyong Business Poundation and the Caring Mentors Association of the Philippines (Carims).



The CMP directly addresses the Dèpartment of Education's concern over the alarming rate of non-readers in public grade schools. Data show that a total of 12,061,675 pupils were enrolled in public elementary schools in School Year 2003-2004. Yet, there were only 337,597 teachers. The teacher-tostudent ratio from SY 2001-2002 up to SY 2003-2004 was 1:36, showing an increase from the ratio of 1:35 in SY 2000-2001. The negative effects are evident in the results of the National Elementary Aptitude Test (NEAT). In SY 2000-2001, the Aduevement Rates in the core subjects were: 49.75 percent in Math and Science, 53.93 percent in Hekasi, 57.49 percent in Filipino, and only 47.70 percent in English. (Source: Education Basic http://www.decs.gov.ph, 2004.)

In fact, there are non-readers, or so-called "students at risk" (STARS) in all primary levels up to Grade 6.

Explains Caltex country manager Randall Johnson: "When we developed the Caltex Mentor Program two years ago, we sought not only to ad-



are joined by Caltest country manager Randy Johnson (back, third from right).

tion. We also aimed to create a volunteer program that will enable our employees, our customers and our various business partners to give personal time and talents, or what we in Calrex proudly call 'sweat equity,' in the drive for better education in the Philippines."

Making a difference

Projects like the CMP are much needed especially now, says Dr. Florencia Domingo, DepEd superintendent for Mandaluyong schools.

Philippine education is in crisis. Why? The government spends 95,000 per elementary school student and 97,700 per high school student. This is equivalent to \$138-it's not enough. Thailand spends about \$852 per student, while the United States spends \$2,200 per student. [This implies that] good education is expensive. So how do we do this?" relates Domingo, a guest speaker at the CMP graduation in Abis.

The CMP garnered as highest number of participants per session at Abis in its two-year history. There were 120 Grade 2 and Grade 3 STARS who were identified through a pre-test conducted by Abis faculty. At the same time, a record number of mentor-volunteers participated-63 in all.

"At first, we had a hard time convincing parents and pupils to take part in the CMP. The implication is, if

Virginia Carrillo, Abis teacher and CMP school-partner coordinator.

It didn't take the CMP mentor-volunteers, who consist of employees from Catex Phiappines and Manila Shared Services Center and employees from member-companies of the Mandaluyong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Mandauyong Business Foundation, long to turn this concept around. After spending four three-hour Saturday sessions with the kids, they managed to improve the pupils' reading performance. After completing the program, the pupils took another test to gauge how much they have learned. The pupils boast of a passing rate of 86 percent in Grade 2 and 96 percent in Grade 3—surpassing CMP's average success rate of 80 percent.

"Pupils who scored zero out of 10 in the pre-test showed dramatic improvement, some gamening impressive scores of eight and nine out of 10 in the post-test," Carrillo says proudly.

Proud moment

The CMP graduation was a proud moment for pupils, their parents and mentors. In attendance were Mandamyong Vice Mayor Jessie Cruz, Dr. Domingo, MCCl officers led by their outgoing president Lirto Sandoval and newly elected president Atty Imelda Elizabeth Millar; Abis faculty and non-teaching staff led by their

ficers led by Mr. Johnson, Caltex business partners and CMP volunteers.

awards Special were presented to pupils who showed the biggest improvement, as well as their mentors. The most improved Grade 2 pupil is Anna Marie Entecosa, mentored by Carios Reves of Cherry Fooderama; Banzuela, Bercel mentored by Connie Fe Calot of AZ Direct Marketing, came a close second; and Jose Sabenono, mentored by Sarah Bangit of Republic Chemicals, came third.

Among the Grade 3 pupils, Angeline Ann Antonio, who was mentored by Merle Tan of AZ Direct Marketing, was named most improved, followed by Zorah Garrido, mentored by Harry Atlanzar of AZ Direct Marketing, and Miguel Peñalba, mentored by Bernadette Roxas and Wilma Estrarra, both of Edsa Shangrila Hotel.

It was also a graduation of sorts for parents and mentors. While their children were being taught, parents underwent a seminar on effective parenting also conducted by CMP volunteers. As for the mentor-volunteers. they witnessed the kind of difference a few weekends' sacrifice can make in a child's life. "We feel honored

have selected our school for the CMP In less than a month, our pupils have shown vast improvement and even surpassed our target passing rate. We have so many wonderful people around us, and we hope to see more of projects like the CMP Mandaluyong, concludes Dr. Valle.

that Caitex and MCCI





of the sea through his 4th book, "Babura - A Passage Through Philippine Reefs" A compilation of breathtaking photos from his dive explorations in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

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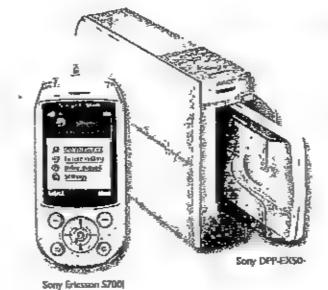
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absection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS @ TUESDAY FITNESS @ WEDNESDAY 2BU @ THURSDAY FOOD @ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



THE ALBUM "A Collection of Manila Costumes and Provincial Styles by Damian Domingo" records the typical 19th-century Bocana dress. It is from the collection of Dr. Eleuterio Pascual.

Album of the glorious Hispanic centuries

LBUM, Islas Filipinas 1663 1888" is a visual offering from José María Cariño and Sonia Pinto Ner, a Augusto F. feast of imagery for someone like me with a lifelong fascination with people and the places that they live in, past and present.

The collection of artwork in the book documents Philippine life from 1663-1888. The elegant design, generous full-color reproductions and meticulous printing come through in this exurious publication whose quality is bound to please all lovers of the beautiful. It is a sourcebook of great value for researchers and aficionados.

Before the days of photography, artists sketched, watercolored, or painted in oil what they saw around them, recording scenes and events from everyday life: people, cityscapes, landscapes, and whatever else was of interest to them. Their work was grouped into collections, and then bound into a-

Albums were often presented as mementos to departing colonia: officials and other important foreign guests, popular souven.rs from the Philippines brought back by travelers to their home countries oversess.

OF PLACE



Albums served different purposes. Some provided straightforward documentation, recording architecture, festivals, also military uniforms, and even playing cards

They were commissioned as official documents to provide illustrations and maps that accompanied written reports. Others catalogued commodities available in the country at the time the Philippines opened its ports to world trade in 1834, precursors of today's digital ex-

port catalogues. Since foreign businessmen and travelers brought home most of the existing albums of the time, only a few remained in the Philippines. The majority is now in the hands of museums and private collectors, mostly in Spain and England.

Most albums published in the book were commissioned, although the few men with talent drew their own. Some were personal records of an artist done for his own satisfaction, an example being the album of José Taviel de Andrade, a bodyguard

Very rare 'Filipina' map of 1563 on exhibit

By Leovino Ma. Garcia Contributor

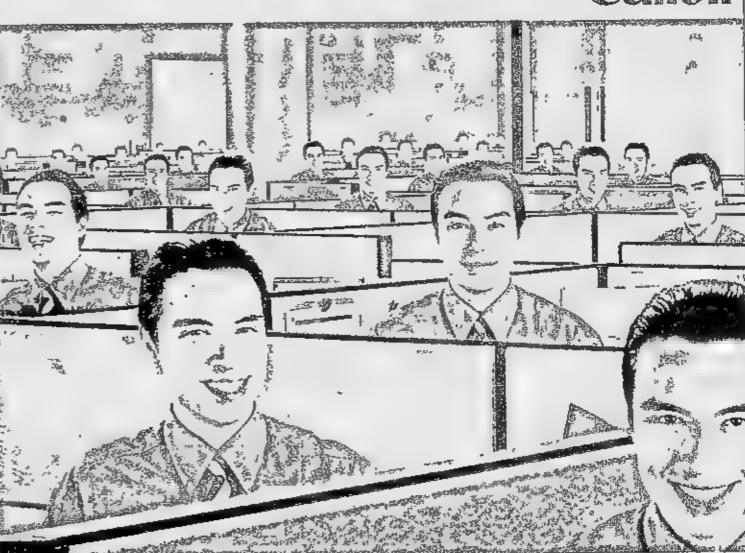
THE EXTREMELY rare Ramusio-Gastaldi map, where the name "Filipina" appears for the very first time on a European map, is currently on display at an exhibit of antique maps titled "Putting the Philippines on the Map" at the Ateneo de Manila University's Rizal Library (Pardo de Tavera Room) in Quezon City, until Dec. 11

This map, which does not show Luzon, bears the name "Filipina," applied to a narrow island to the east of Mindanao. As a matter of fact, the Spanish expedition leader Ruy Lopez de Villalobos bestowed the name "Felipina" on Leyte in honor of the young Crown Prince Philip (later Philip II) in 1543.

Although Italy never sent expeditions to Southeast Asia, it pioneered in mapmaking in the 16th century. Acknowledged as "that most excellent of cartographers" of the nme, the Italian Giacomo Gastaldi, 1500-1565, produced three fine maps of Southeast Asia: in 1548, in 1554, and in 1561.



THE RAMUSIO-GASTALDI, Terza Ostro Tavola, 1563 map showing "Filipina" (with pointer) beside "Vendanao" (Mindanao)



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Art décoratif

By Constantino C. Tojoro

N VALERIA Cavestany's striking art pieces, we are reminded of a time when Orientalism reached the European art world, influenced both applied and fine arts, engendered l'art nouveau, and inspired the likes of Van Gogh, Gauguin, Matisse, Klimt. Surrounded by these images, one feels luxuriating in warm light, preciousness and decadence.

Here are still lifes of varicolored flowers, some yellow and green fruits, blue porcelain, gray crescent moon, chinoiserie, and idealized portraits of women in exotic fabrics, with lightly stirring fans, amid petals and fottage, based on old photographs and antique prints—all delicately limned in acrylic on canvas and mixed media (watercolor, acrylic, découpage) on papez.

Here are adjustable tables of fron and light, flower chain, fish chairs, translucent Japanese screens, divider lamps of cloth, light boxes of aluminum and giass (which the artist calls cajos de tux).

Numerous pieces of this rich imagery are spread until Dec. 12 in two gallenes at the Attwalk, in Finale and Galleria Duemila, L/4, Bidg. A, SM Megamall, Mandalayong City.

Cultural melting pot

Cavestany is a Filipino Hispanic, born to a Filipino mestica mother and a Basque father from Barcelona.

She studied textile design in Escuela de Diseño Textil in Barcelona, then came to the Philippines to look for her roots. Joring in Painting with a minor in Choosing to make Manila her Art Management.





home, she started a career in fashion design.

Here she studied traditional Chinese-brush painting under Hau Chick, and took up AB in Asian History at the University of the Philippines. She also studied at the Asean Institute of Art, ma-



She attended workshops in children's book illustration in Goethe Institut-Manila, lithograph on stone under José Soriano in Barcelona, with the Academy of Realist Art in Breitenbush, Seattle, USA, with Minford Zornes and Don Andrew in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

No wonder then that her art emerges as from a cultural melting pot. In fact, one thing she says she admires in her favorite painter Gustav Klimt is his integration of different cultures and blend of disparate elements in his

Cavestany's paintings are characterized by flat color, often just a wash, and little concern for perspective-typical of ancient Oriental painting. The ornate patterns clearly come from textile

gesture is from Antoni Tapies.

Though she has settled in Manula for over 20 years now, her art still has roots in Cataluña. Her imagery has the leviry of that of her fellow Catalan Joan Miro her ornamentation as rococo as another Catalan's, Antoni Gaudí; and her colorism as Fauvist inflected as still another Catalan's, Perico Pastor.

Even her functional art leans more to the decorative. Gaudí, particularly, manifests in the overwrought furniture. This flourish of overdecoration would seem rather incongruous for someone who professes to be a socialist in her youth.

Subversive portraits

But there is in her portraits an edginess that's beyond art décodesign, while the calligraphic ratif. While an Oriental corness



defines the postures of the figures, there is in their gaze at the viewer that boldness and directness reminiscent of the sexually aggressive women of another favorite painter, Egon Schiele.

Look at the faces and witness the challenge and allure in those eyes: "She and Narcissus," "Japonesa Verde," "Buddha with Chinita Sitting on His Lap," "A Lady with Printed Dress Green and Pink," "Orchid Ladies," "I Love You," "Glued to the Phone," Japonesas Dreaming in Red," Japonesas with Flores," "A Lady in Blue and White Background," "So Many Things to Remember," "I Miss You," "Two Ladies, One Hold-ing a Small Guitar."

Mostly based on photos of Chinese women of the 1920s with motifs from memorabilia from Hongkong, these portraits subvert the idealization and nostalgia with a streak of disturbing

Even the floral still lifes look no less aggressive, with the pictorial

frame crawling with spiky curvilinear forms. Here, every flower seems poised to attack, every leaf and tendral a weapon. And the still life is no longer still, but teeming with life, unceasing movement and chaotic colors.

The colorism is as eye-grabbing as the Pauvists', though it ranges from the primary to dark tona bes, from the cashing to monochrome.

"I have no favorite color-I use everything," laughs the artist "Some other time I use mostly blue, but here it's predominantly red. I don't know why."

Most visually appealing are three portraits of solitary women richly drenched in gold, red, yellow and brown: "Fanning," "Always by Myself," "She and Narcis-

Those are cajor de lux that, when lit, gives off an unearthly glow. They may not be self-portraits, but the viewer can't help but imagine the artist to be just as



The BURCHER KINGS then Hebres and Ornamed Lage to a tradyrespic by Burger Hing Co.



Raul Isidro in lecture-demo

PRINTMAKER painter Raul G. Isidro is the featured artist for December of the College of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines in Dili-

man, Quezon City. The artist's suite of monoprints, executed during the last three years, including recent oneof-a-kind prints, is on display at

the Corredor of the college. Isidro's monoprints make extensive use of locally available material and are individually hand-colored to enhance the print. The resulting color applicanon approximates the qualities of watercolor and creates a refined and elegant character that blends

and with the material.

Isidro's subject explores places of the past as well as unchartered territories which he depicts as surreal or expressionistic land-

He also makes use of anthropological discoveries such as anclent relics and artifacts that help shed light on man's continuing exploration of the great mysteries

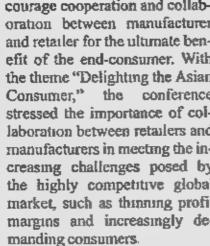
Isidro, president of the Philippine Association of Printmakers, will deliver a lecture, to be followed by a demonstration of monoprint and other printmaking techniques on Dec. 7, 2 p.m., at the Corredor. His lecture and demo are open to the public, Call 0916-3608379.



"MONOPRINTS"

Shopwise-Unilever Project Wins Top Award in the First-Ever ECR Asia Awards

Shopwise Supercenter, the pi- courage cooperation and collab- and maintaining shopper loyaloneer in hypermarket operations oration between manufacturer ty, driving in-store traffic, and in the country and manufactur- and retailer for the ultimate ben- creating a differentiated shopers and retailers. The tandem of creasing challenges posed by Shopwise-Unilever bested eight the highly competitive global to our country in the recently manding consumers. concluded 7th Efficient Consumer Response Asia Confer- dubbed, "Shoppenings," was an ence held at the Philippine Inter- integrated approach to building national Convention Center last



The Shopwise-Unilever entry



These activities led to impressive sales growths for both Shopwise and Unifever amid more intense competition in the trading area, and tougher economic times. According to Pong Ejercito, customer development director of Unitever Philippines, what made 'Shoppenings' such



a success was its focus on shop- expectations." When pers. "From the very beginning, this in mind, exceed shoppers'

what the secret was to winning we focused on putting the shop- the ECR Asia Awards, Catherpers first. We designed and im- ine Tantoco of Shopwise had plemented our activities with this to say: "If you focus on the customer, everybody wins."



October 27 and 28. The aim of the awards is to en-

ADDING VITALITY TO LIFE BY ALL.
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WINNER

IST EFFICIENT CONSUMER RESPONSE (ECR) **ASIA AWARDS**

For

SHOPWISE HEALTH AND BEAUTY CENTER

Besting eighteen (18) top retailers from China, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, and all over the Asian region.



Album of the glorious Hispanic centuries

assigned to José Rizal.

Canno and Ner scoured local and European sources to select albums for their publication. The albums they chose include a wide range of topics. playing cards, calligraphy, military uniforms, architectural studies, costumes, maps.

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Selva

ere hode

tion in the selection of materials to

"Authenticity," write the editors, "is what separates national treasures from mere trifle, it is important for the credibility and scholarship of the research. Most importantly, it assures that a piece of art is an original creation of the artist to whom the work is

included in the book.

ish archives regarding its colonies.

From it comes the Indumentaria Filipina collection of watercolors showing Phihopene apparel. Included in the collection is a letter dated Oct. 6, 1812, from Don Fray Joaquin Encaro de la Virgen de Sopetran, Bishop of Cebu, describing the language, customs, and be-

colonial buildings

The mid-18th century ushered the Age of Expeditions and Enlightenment, when most European powers sent scientific expeditions abroad to record and bring back biological and botanical specimens. Not to be outdone, the Spanish dispatched expeditions to their colonies, among its most ambitious being the 3 1/2-year Malaspina Expedition which left Spain in 1789 for North and South America and the Par East, finally

Malaspina observed political and and wrote out recommendations on how relations with Spain could be im-

ciryscapes, and regional costumes

The distance from Madrid to Manila was too far to allow King Felipe VII to travel, so he commissioned a portrait, a symbolic representation, to be

"Fiestas en Marula, Año 1825," an al-

sented to King Felipe VII, a record of extravagant festivities that welcor

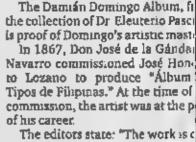
Damián Domingo (1790-18 was the best-known Filipino arms the early 19th century, a dis guished professor at the Academia

In 1867, Don José de la Gándai Navarro commissioned José Honto Lozano to produce "Album Tipos de Filipinas." At the time of commission, the artist was at the p

of Malacañang, a record that acces the mansion was from the water entrance of Malacañang

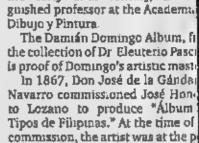
piña embroidery, architectural em lishments and natural forms Vista del Jardín Botanico y est





outstanding work for its sheer volv and the quality of the compositi artistry and craftsmanship." The album opens with a river v

lication by Cariño ('José Honoi Lozano-Filipinas 1847"), records painstaking detail the intricacte



sidered by many as his [Lozano] π

by restoring the Jardin Botanico

the arrival of his portrait. Domingo album



ing reason to the fact that the river cade was more imposing. Anot work shows a dirt road cutt through rice fields leading to the The impressive body of work Lozano, the subject of an earlier p

de Ysabel II" on the Mehan Garsite shows what Manua could reg "Album: the imagination unbou details of pure delight," accura-

GOOD design is timeless, as this barong tagalog in watercolor by Fel-Martinez In 1888 shows.

Authenticity

The editors' foremost considerapublish was authenticity.

attributed."

To assure authenticity, each author, assisted by curators, scientists and technicians, examined every artwork

The Archivo General de Indias in Sevilla is one of the richest sources of Philippine materials. Since its creation in the 16th century, it has housed the entire collection of Span-

befs of the faithful under his care.

More images from the archive record military uniforms in the Philippines, maps and architectural plans of

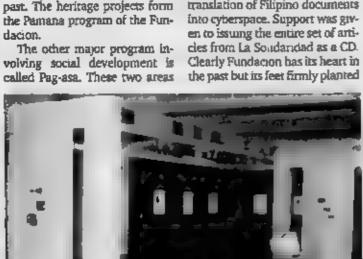
reaching the Philippines in 1792. At each port the expedition called on, the hydrograph team recorded the waters and other coastal data. Artists drew vistas, prominent buildings, houses, ethnological portraits, and local costumes. Botanists, biologists and taxidermists gathered scientific data and collected samples. Surveyors calculated latitude and longi-

socio-economic conditions,

The expedition's nine-month stay in the country produced a wealth of information from marine drawings, the Mayon Volcano (called volcán de Albay), typical houses, landscapes,

brought to Manila instead

burn of 25 watercolors commissioned by Governor General Ricafort, was pre-



LINES across time at the National Museum

NE bright morning, I clearly indicate the Fundacion has a two-pronged approach to development as captured in its ilege of speaking with

Crossing the lines

ILLUSTRATION by José Lozano captures elite life in the 19th century.

had the wonderful priv-

Chaco Molina, executive direc-

National Museum to see an ex-

hibit which Fundacion had de-

veloped: "Lines Across Time."

by my friend, the dynamic Gina

Tambunting Roxas.

Chaco gave us an

anamated descrip-

tion of what his orga-

nization did. Funde- |

cion Sannago's pre-

decessor was found-

ed way back in 1903

and was originally

named Hospital Es-

pañol de Santiago.

Its initial objective

gent Spanish citizens

stranded in the

One of its possessions was a

Pasig River. By some twist of fate,

that parcel happened to be in the

area of Makati Avenue. When

Makati took off as an important

commercial centes, real-estate

prices skyrocketed. The founda-

non found itself with consider-

At this point, the foundation,

under the leadership of its presi-

dent Pedro Roxas, began to rein-

vent itse,f. Roxas saw civic works

as important ways to return

something to the Philippines for

all its kindness and support. He

felt it necessary then to expand

the foundation's reach. Thus,

Fundacion Santiago, as we now

Today, the foundation is in-

volved in a wide range of pro-

jects-from assisting coopera-

tives to sponsoring workshops. It

has worked in areas like Lopez in

Quezon and in Western Batan-

Of course, the Pundacion pro-

gram that really excites me is the

one on heritage. Chaco observed

that many Filipinos seemed to

have turned away from their

know it, was born.

colonial regimes.

able resources.

Programs

Chaco had invited us to the

tor of the Fundacion Santiago.

mission statement: "To contribute to a strong grasp of the national identity by promoting and sustaining historical awareness among Filipinos, and using this sense of self as one Our meeting was actually set up of the foundations of national development; and

> "To contribute to true, sustainable and equitable national development ALL4ART through the promotion of social en-

> > trepreneurship among economically marginalized particularly рипов, those in the country-

Amazing

was to attend to indi- Bea Zobel Jr What ! find amazing is that a well-re-Philippines during the change of spected foundation will make the stand that enhancing the lives of our people requires paying atten-

parcel of land in a rice field near tion to heritage issues. Fundacion is sending the message very dearly: Development requires that socio-economic programs go hand-in-hand with culrural programs. People are best able to enhance their lives if they

have a revitalized sense of self. It was a comfort to know that Mr. Roxas had found a good man in Chaco to carry out his visions. Chaco regaled us with stones of his academic career and how he

wound ap in the foundation. What struck me in his narrative was how he constantly went back to one thing as the basis of his life's decisions-love of country. He was obviously mutured in this love by his parents. His father was the devoted diplomat and historian Antonio Molina, who taught law and history at UST (he was a mentor of the late American historian William Hen-

Among the Pamana projects of the Fundacion were its activities in the historic city of Vigan. The Fundacion worked with the Spanish government and the local government on several major

infrastructure programs. Other projects include the translation of Filipino documents into cyberspace. Support was given to issuing the entire set of articles from La Soudandad as a CD. Clearly Fundacion has its heart in

GINA Rosas with executive director Chaco Molina I would also have loved to see modules on how existing her-Exhibits have also been part of stage architecture and restoraus portfolio. Recently sponsored tion activities can be used for was the show "Zamboanga: A World Between Worlds, Cradle of tourism and income-generation. an Emerging Civilization." This This way we will see how heritage and conservation truly conwas a collaboration with Dr. Femibute to the economy. In fact, lice Noelle Rodriguez, who also produced a book on the topic. Chaco dreams of seming up herstage training centers which will

Refreshing

two dimensions.

advancement.

help revive the old traditional

Thinking of Fundacion's pro-

grams, I can't help but be in-

spired. It is so refreshing to see

programs that deal with both

sides of the development equa-

Perhaps what we can look fur-

Imagine credit cooperative

ward to is seeing more Funda-

cion projects that integrate the

workshops that begin with mod-

ules on the art and heritage of the

town. Imagine heritage exhibits

which also help teach kids about

It is hoped programs that real-

ly cross the lines, which stress the

interaction between culture and

economics, will make people

aware that we do not have to sac-

rifice cultural and heritage re-

sources in the name of economic

I notice that the Fundacion

puts a lot of stress on working

with rural populations. This is

why I fully agree with its empha-

sis on heritage and identity is-

After all, many rural areas are

poor in certain modern facilities

math and science through art.

tion -culture and economics.

in the present.

Which brings us to the current exhibit in the National Museum, "Lines Across Times." It aims to show how Philippine life was transformed by the changes in architecture brought about by

Sparish inputs. The exhibit has three parts: House, Infrastructure and Everyday Life. It was put together by heritage expert Toti Villalon, creative director Teresa Custodio, and model arust Ignacio Perez. There are photographs, maps, scale models and computer inter-

The first section showcases the bahay na bato, the elite residence which was the centerpiece of the Spanish colonial domestic archirecrural legacy. There is also one frame dealing with the buhay kubo as the precursor of the bo-

hay na bato. In the first section is found a lovely illustration of a house floor plan, interior and façade by Jose Lozano. A friend pointed out that at the edge of Lozano's drawing one can see small houses. My friend went on to note that perhaps another exhibit could deal with these types of houses instead of just the two extremes of bahay kubo and bahay na bato.

The second section deals with the infrastructure which the Spanish authorities built to support their colonial administration. Included are ports, lightbouses, roads and bridges. The final section showcases the fabric of everyday town life. What is on display here are town layous, churches and plazas.

Many of the images in the exhibit have hardly been seen before, Some are from recently discovered albums. There is even a wonderful set of games and activity kits which were developed as collateral materials for the One goes away with a sense of

how architecture truly helped

shape life and culture in Spanish

like factories and roads, but they are extremely wealthy in cultural resources like traditional architecture, crafts, songs and rituals. By transforming all these into reassets through tourism and product design, we create jobs for the countryside, so people do not need to crowd the cities. One can dream, don't you

beartist@filipinasli-E-mail brary.org.ph or address letter to Filipenas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City.

Meanwhile, I can really say that an organization like Funda-

cion, with its wonderful leaders

like Pedro Roxas and Chaco Molina, is truly the answer to our



A JOSÉ Honorato Lozano image of a road ambush in Mount Carballo, Cagayar Province (ca. 1887), based on a drawing by Colonel Don Manuel Penaranda



IN THE 19TH century, ilustrado homes along Calle San Sebastian (now R. Hidalgo St.) frame the view toward Our Lady of Carmen Church, which was destroyed and replaced with the all-steel San Sebastian Church.

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A HAND-DRAWN map on parchment by an anonymous mapmaker from 1683 records locations of Spanish fortifications and territories occupied by religious orders in Mindanao.

write the authors. I would add that the albums in this book tell the Filipino story, visually recording the early days of the Filipmo nation, and definitely is a source of national pride for our people.

Heaven forbid that a book like this be simply abandoned to stlent display on someone's coffee table. This is a book that deserves to be looked at, to be read, and to be appreciated for the visual record of the excellence of Fig. spino culture that it provides.

"Álbum, Islas Filipinas 1663-1888" is available at the Pilipinas Hentage Library bookshop in Makati, Tradewinds Bookshop in Intramuros, the Metropolitan Museum Shop on Roxas Boulevard, and at AON in Loyala.

Email the author at afvillation@hotтай.сот

Very rare

In question here is Gastaldi's 1554 woodblock map "Terza Ostro Tavola," which first appeared in the second edition of Volume I of Giovanni Battista Ramusio's "Delle Navigation e Viaggi." Thus, it is called the Ramusio-Gastaldi map. The map on display is the copperplate version in the third edition of Volume I of Ramusio's collection of voyages in 1563.

How did "Filipina" come to appear on this map, barely 11 years after the naming of the archipelago by Villalobos?

The 1554 Ramusio-Gastaldi map not only benefited from Antonio Pigafetta's account of Magellan's voyage for its mapping of the Philippines but also relied on newly published sources at the

Among these sources prominently figures the account of the voyage from Mexico to the Philippines by Juan Gaytan (Italianicized by Ramusio as Gaetano) and Villalobos. Ramusio hymself first published this account in 1550.

Emerging presence

The antique maps in this exhibit trace the gradual putting of the Philippines on the map by Western explorers and colonizers. Of notable interest are the Sebastian Munster map of 1550 (which does not show the Philippines); the Petrus Kaerius map of 1598 (the first map that features the Philippines by itself); and the 1744 and 1760 editions of the Jesuit Pedro Murillo Velarde's map of 1734, considered to be the mother of all Philippine maps.

The appeal of antique maps comes from the unique synthesis of geography, history, exploration, travel, trade, science, culture and art. They fascinate many people today not only because they are documents of knowledge and icons of beauty but most of all because they are instruments of power. There is a compelling link be-

tween cartography and power. The exhibit hopes to help Fliipinos, especially the young, appropriate a fuller consciousness of their nation as the center from which to view others Annque maps like the Mercator-Hondius map of 1606, which puts the Philippines at the center of Southeast Asia, can fire the imagination and strengthen one's resolve to help put the Philippunes in this milleanium not only in the heart of Asia but most of all, as a country with a heart.

The exhibit is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.-12 n, 1-5 p.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m.-12 nn.

For a guided tour, call the Office of the Dean, School of Humanities, at 4261042 or e-mail to lgarcia@ateneo.edu

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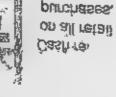
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Marcel Antonio's nudes of desire



"ELLISIVE Decam"



By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos Contributor

ARCEL Antonio's latest body of works have a come-hither air about them. Not because most of them feature nubile nudes, but because they elicit a sense of déià vu.

Some works may bring to mind a scene from a critically acclaimed Oscar nominee for best foreign film, or a movie from the heyday of IVN Studios.

Other pieces exide an aura easily evoking memories of the viewer's most private moments.

Antonio is known to call from literature for his compositions, from Greek epics to Shake-spearean tragedies and nursery rhymes. The resulting visual narratives result in the sensation of familiar cognizance and even personal remembrance

Among the 2ft x 2ft of canvases done in oil, there are two that perhaps refer to the trilogy of "Griffin and Sabine" by Nick Bantock, about the correspondence between star-crossed and most unorthodox lovers who never really meet, thereby maintaining a yearning for each other.

"Sabine 1" is a woman brushing her long, dark tresses with a faraway look in her eyes. Her angled arm keeps her bare breasts from view.

The same olive skin, islander features, and melancholic gaze are in "Sabine 2," again her bare chest spared from exposure with a deverly positioned hand. The other extremity is outstretched, holding a mirror at an angle which seems to allow the viewer to question whether the reflection is, indeed, Sabine's. A reflection is androgynous, signifying not only the longing for Griffin but also the character Sabine's doubt as to the existence of the latter, never having met him face to face.

Grace and melancholy

It is also the pose of the second Sabine that prods one's memory, for it is actually the same as the central figure in Sandro Botticeli's "Primavera." It must be noted then that Antonio has also imbibed the fusion of grace and melancholy that characterized the early Boti-



Bright and festive colors dominate the canvases in the artist's homecoming show



RAGILE Slumber"

cells, most of which are also themed according to Greek mythology.

Marcel's brand of brooding subjects is his signature. Their skin tone is not Caucasian. They may be seen as mulatto, Micronesian, and, most admirably, perhaps Filipino.

These characters who are revealed in their languorous contemplation or habits of abandon are seemingly unaware they are being watched. The smudging the artist uses for his shading, figure outlines, and even the multihued backdrops make for a veil, one akin to diaphanous drapes shielding a bouldor from prying eyes.

Yet privy the viewers become, lured as they are by the unabashed comfort in one's own skin. They provoke perhaps curiosity, but beyond that is desire. For, indeed, the works depict desire, whether secret reminiscences, innermost wishes, or deepest longings, waiting to be had.

"Squared Figures" runs on Dec. 9-19 in Gallery Nine, Megamall. Cail 6877302.

Email author at jejaro 2002 @yahoo.com.

Sanso's blissful life in living color

By Gino Dormlendo Contrabutor

AT FIRST glance, the artworks by the lobby of The Podnum seem hardly unusual. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of pieces on the same subject have been painted by Juvenal Sanso, better known as Sanso, in various periods of his life.

Seascapes, rock formations, lichens, floral bouquets—they have been the staple of his art. And they remain his favored subject, the well-spring of his creative power.

But on closer view, one is overcome by the riches of color that mark Sanso's felicitous turn at this stage in his life. It seems as if a sudden surge of joy and bliss has enveloped the man Bright and festive colors dominate his canvases in this homecoming show.

A happy reality

The show is aptly titled, "Felicidad," harking back to a decade past when friends hatched up the idea of a show to mark his 75th birthday. The event has become a happy realty, coinciding with his decision to return to Manila after 50 years of living and working in various parts of Europe, especially in Paris where the light, he claims, is the longest and brightest

and most awe-inspiring.

The title of the show is a tribute to the honoree, Felicidad Sy, wife to Henry Sy, whom he first met when he was eight. Henry Sr., seven years order than him, was then tending their small store on Echague

Still sprightly and effervescent at 75, Sanso looks back at his life with justifiable pride. He has fulfilled his dreams, with art as constant lover, and dedicated muse.

Born of émigrés from Catalonia, Spain, he was 11 when the war broke out and the family fied to the hills of Monta-ban (now Rodriguez)

Award-winning

Sanso recalls spending the postwar years as a special student at the University of the Philippines, His teachers were among the best and brightest, notably Fernando Amorsolo, Dominador Castañeda and Guillermo Tolentino.

In his last year at the UR he won two first-prize awards, in oil and watercolor, in the 1951 Art Association of the Philippines competitions. He was third place in the Shell National Art competition.

Sanso went to Europe and enrolled at Rome's Academia di Beile Arti and, later, the Academia della Madagia and the Circolo Artistico.

Feeling Jaded by Rome's artistic climate, he moved to Venice to work on



"THE GLISTENING Land"

fresco paintings for the Palazzo Dario. Here, he met the legendary Peggy Guggenheim and became her friend and client.

He later relocated to Paris, where he claims the air and the company best suited his lifestyle and work habits.

Sanso has maintained a home in Paris since 1956, when he first held a one man show in Galleria de la Maison des Beaux Arts.

He counts among his biggest breaks the Print of the Year award for "Leuers" from the Cleveland Museum of Art. Other recipients of the honor included Henri Matisse and Salvador Dali

Indeed, it is in printmaking—particularly etching—that the other side of Sanso resides. He laments the current state of printmaking in the country, attributing its moribund state to the same people who are supposed to uplift it.

Impressive light

In the current show, curated by Galerie Joaquin, what impresses is the quality of light emanating from the canvases. Gone are the angst-filled and brooding look of his seascapes, instead, colors have taken a glowing hue.

The places are likewise bardly identifiable, more obliquely situated in the well-defined settings of the

Brittany coast and the fishponds in San Dionisio, Parañaque

In the artist's current works, we see a place where time seemed to have stood still. Annid quiet surroundings, we are drawn to majestic rocks now mossy, suddenly turning rosy, and framed by the biazing orange horizon with the evanescent light of the

Sanso's pervasive brushwork is immediately palpable, particularly in the richly textured rocks where behave in abundance. In the remote background, a sailboat breaks

the view of the shimmering coastline.

The artist continues to mine his lifetime preoccupation with floral still life. His flowers are captured in vases or simply as bouquets.

In characteristic blue and green, these are anthropomorphic still lifes harking back to the 16th century, so netily detailed yet truly magisterial in their spuraling, towering movement. They represent the best of Sanso, who continues to evolve in this biologically mature stage of his life.

Sanso has found a new way of expressing another facer of his heart and mind. With a brilliant stroke of unexpected luck, not to mention his brush, he has immersed himself in a sea of bliss and happiness.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com



CAMILLE de la Rosa presents her I Ith solo exhibit, "Evolved Works," on Dec. B, at Nicotina Garden Pavilion, beside DFA Building, Roxas Blvd., Passy City. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. The exhibit runs until Jan. 17. Call 5517906/07 or fax 8338316.

Olazo at Finale, Aquilizan at Mag;Net, Camille de la Rosa at Nicotina

FINALE Art Gallery presents Romulo Olazo's recent abstract paintings until Dec. 14 at the 4/F La' O Centre, Sun Lorenzo Village, con ol Pasay Road con Malati Ave., Makati. This exhibit shows Olazo's "Diaphanous" series.

ALFREDO Juan Aquilizan holds 'Things Return to Their Place' starting today until Dec. 12 at Mag: Net Gallery Passo in Makati. He continues with his attempt to relate history with community, community with place, and places with objects. Call 8177895.

PINTÓ Art Gallery launches "Alay 8," which features paintings, drawings and sculptures by

VISUAL ARTS

more than 50 visual artists. The show can be viewed on Dec. 12 yan.

12, 2005 at Sierra Madre, Grandheights, Antipolo City, Call 6971015/7229205.

ART SPACE runs Emil Davocol's photo exhibit

entitled "Light Images" on Dec. 14-28 at Glorietts 4, Maketi.

JESUS Casabar holds a photo axiabit. "In Passing," at Carhouse, 1803 Mabril St., Malate, Macile, starting Dec. 9, Call 4508301

THE DRAWING Room presents "Trip7" until



ARACELI Dans' "Forest" (left) and Luis
Gabriel's "Two Birds on a Banch" are
among the art works to be auctioned on
Dec. 7 at the Orched Garden Suites Hotel.
The Silent Auction of Art, Antiques and
Collectibles is the Winner Foundation's
project to preserve the Arroceros Forest
Park in Manila. Other artists on exhibit are
Bencab, Romulo Olazo, Al Parez, and
Ramon Orline.



THE FRANCISCO
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Foundation, Inc.
mounts an exhibit
of Cocking's works
until Dec. 16 at
the main lobby
of La Salle
Greenfills.



"DIAPHANOUS" by Romulo bidro

Dec. 20 at the Matrostar Suilding, 1007
Metropolitan Ave., Makati. The exhibit features
works in ceramic, photography, wood, v and
painting done by Erika Arroyo, Pardo de Leon.
Mario Fernandez Ava Lugtu Popo San Pascual, Christina Chrisumbing Ramilo and Trek
Valdizno Cail 8977877/ 8976990

BOSTON Gaivery mounts three simultaneous exhibitions of paintings and sculptures until Dec. 31 at 72 Boston cor. Lanlans Sts., Cubao, OC Sandra Fable-Gfeller presents oil paintings of dancers in "Kinetics" at the Lower Gallery José John Santos traces the history of his belog through his ancestry in "Past Represented" at the upper Gallery. Roberto Acosta exhibits a series of terra-cotta sculptures in "Cararag" at the Gavery Alcove, Call 7229205.

ONE LUNA Gallery features "Gifts of Cotor" until Dec. 31 at One Luna Lifestyle Center, Eastwood Avenue. GC. Participating artists are Herzon de la Rosa, Mona Lisa Arlon, Cristina. Circo, Alice Cuazon, Rhea de la Rosa, Edna. Garrucho, Lulu Katigbak, Charo Lim, Nene. Marquez, Eden Olivar, Beth Periquet, Marilyn. Ramos, Janet Santos, Becky Villegas and Jenny Villegas. Call 6350884/ 6350859/ 6350874.

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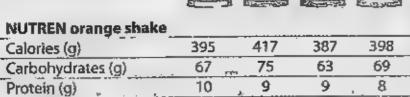
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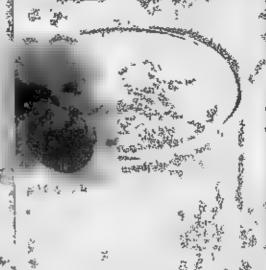
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simmer for 2 to 3 minutes more.
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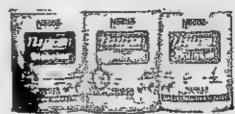
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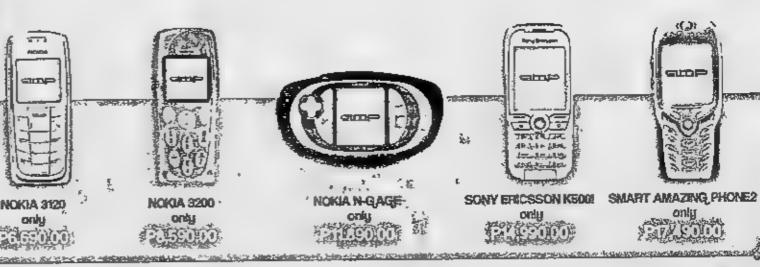




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Utterly mushy and predictable, James Patterson's latest lovefest will satisfy only the most die-hard of romantics

A romance to be returned to sender

By Ruel S. De Vera

"Sam's Letters to Jennifer" By James Patterson Warner Books, New York 2004, 264 pages

JAMES Patterson just continues to amaze us with his versarility and production. His 26th novel marks another landmark for the popular and best-selling author.

By now, his lengthy bibliography includes everything from gripping Hollywood-massaged thrillers ("Kiss The Girls") to drippy romances ("Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas"). Along the way, he has collaborated with other writers and has tackled everything from medieval mystery to au-"When The Wind Blows"). Yet it is clear that potfriendly, his prose has always been assembly-line chant for surprises in the past. accessible though his capacity for innovation buzz-inducing or banal.

Thus, "Sam's Letters for Jennifer" (notice the been trick-and-treat, perhaps a romance with a twist. Yet it turns out to be achingly earnest, regu.ar TV-movie-of-the-week stuff. Short and contwo love stories in different generations meeting in tragedy and serendipity.

The titular Jennifer is a Chicago Tribune columnist doubling as the novel's first-person narrator. Having lost her husband to an accident,

Jennifer is muddling along somehow when her beloved grandmother Sam (short for Samantha) falls unro a coma. While at her grandmother's house, Jennifer discovers a sheaf of setters in her name and, as she reads, finds out that Sam was secretly in love with someone other than her late grandfather, Charles.

This discovery goes hand in hand with Jennifer's fortuitous meeting with hunky radiologist Brendan Keller, astensibly on vacation. Even as she struggles with Sam's vegetable state in the hospital, Jennifer falls mexorably for Brendan even as she continues to read through Sam's letters, artempting to find out who the mysterious Doc is.

Secrets

As always, there are secrets. While Jennifer is still haunted by the memory of her husband's death, Brendan harbors secrets of his own. But, despite their own efforts, the two sink deeper into each other's presence, with Jennifer's reflection a fitting description of the novel itself: "Being with Brendan definitely felt like an oldfashioned summer romance-fast, liresistible, and probably a linde dumb, bur even if it was, we both seemed to feel the same way about it. I had the sense that Brendan needed it, too, and also that he was holding back, careful that this doon't get too serious."

With Patterson's overheated descrip-Jennifer tions of

swooning, "Letters" begins, however, to take a turn for the mawkish, becoming more and more a pulp romance. Admittedly, the time-lost story of Sam's hidden dailiances would have made for a flavorful counterpoint to the by-the-manbers (and roll-the-eyes) coupling between Jennifer and Brendan.

But that mystery turns out to be quite underwhelming, especially if compared to Patterson's past novels. In truth, Sam's struggle with her health and Jennifer's warm recollections of her grandmother comes across as far more affecting that the undercooked love story unfolding in Sam's eloquent if breathless missives.

For good measure, Patterson throws in some overheated revelations to my and shake up "Letters," but these also come across as being condaciously wend sci-fi (the winged children from urived and forced. It is almost surprising how predictable "Letters" turns out to be, taking also conboilers remain his strength. Purhlessly reader- sideration that Patterson had displayed a pen-

By summer's end, everything that the reader swings wildly, his books turning out to be either thinks will happen certainly will have come to pass. Between the doying home-scented warmsh of the central characters to the bulldozing force title's similarity to "Diary") could easily have of their rumance, the elements found in Letters" has an overpoweringly crowd-pleasing quality to them that renders the book unterly predictable. As a result, "Sam's Letters to Jennufer" will be satclse; straightforward and sappy, "Letters" tackles isfying only to the most die-hard and needy of romance fans. Otherwise, this James Patterson outing can be skipped and returned to sender us the dependably prolific author will surely have something new for readers very soon anyway.

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Filipino food book wins 2nd Global Filipino Literary Awards

"COMFORT Food," an anthology of essays from 31 writers on nostalgia and food, edited by Erlinda Enriquez Pantilio and published by Anvil Publishmg, received the Award for Non-Fiction given by Our Own Voice, a literary ezine for Filipinos in the Diaspora (www.oovrag/~oov), which released the list of recipients for its Second Annual Global Filipino Literary Awards. An essay from the anthology will be featured in the December 2004 issue of Our Own Voice. (Comfort Food was likewise cited by the Manila Critics Cir-

cle's National Book Awards for 2003 as Best Food Book.)

We appland publishers worldwide who encourage the literary output of Filipino authors," stated Ms Remé-Anronia Grefalda, founding editor of Our Own Voice. "The next generation's need to see their experiences reflected on the page will propel them to actively search for works by Filipino authors." The 2004 GFLA honors authors and publishers of books by Filipino authors from around the world, focusing on books published in 2003.

This year the judges awarded two poetry collections, citing the publication of "Ghost Wars" by Vince Gotera of Cedar Falls, Iowa, published by Final Thursday Press, and "Miracle Prust" from Tupelo Press, a collection of poems by Aimee Nezhukumatathil of Fredonia, New York.

There was no award for fiction this

The awardees will receive a plaque citation, a copy of Our Own Voice Literary/Arts Journal, and their choice from a selection of recent books published.

Last year's Global Filipino Literary Awardees were: Noel Alumit's Letters to Montgomery Clift, Piction, published by McAdams/Cage For Poetry, Love Gathers All, a groundbreaking anthology of poems by Philippine and Singaporean poets (that includes one of Panliho's poems), published by Anvil Philippines and Ethos Books, respectively; and Mulat, an anthology of television scripts in Filipino by Frank G. Rivera, published by the University of Santo Tomas Publishing House, Phuap-

Graphic-Nick Joaquin Awards on Dec. 8

THE BEST of Philippine Graph- founding publisher. ic weekly magazine's fiction writers will receive the Philippine Graphic-Nick Joaquin Literary Awards 2004 and P100,000 in cash prizes in formal ceremonies on Dec. 8

The awarding will be held following the blessing and inauguration at 4 p.m. of the new offices of Philippine Graphic Publications, Inc., at 3/P Dominga Building, 2113 Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) Besides Graphic, the company also publishes Mirror Healthy Lifestyle and Cook Culmary Lifestyle monthly magazines.

The literary competition has been named after the late National Artist for Literature and Journalism, who was Graphic's corporate editor-in-chief and

The publishing group has invited President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel V. Ramos to the

Msgr. Josefino S. Ramirez, parish priest of Quiapo Church, will celebrate a thanksgiving mass at 4 p.m. and officiate the blessing of the new offices. The awards ceremony takes place after.

The winners were chosen by a panel of judges headed by Adrian Cristobal, Graphic literary editor and executive publisher. Members were Graphic columnist Krip Yuson and managing editor Marianne Carandang.

The awardees will receive trophies and cash prizes from Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, Graphic founder, T. Anthony C. Cabangon, publisher, and Benjamin V Ramos, presi-

Joaquin, Nolledo, Condino to receive UST literature prize

THE VARSITARIAN, the official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, will bestow the Parangal Hagbong literary prize to expatriate Filipino poet Ben Villar Condino, the late Wilfrido Nolledo and the late National Artist Nick Joaquin on Dec. 11, 6 p.m., at the UST Main Building

The three writers will receive trophies sculpted by artists Frederick Caedo and Romeo Forbes

The Parangal Hagbong is the highlight of the 20th Ustetika Awards, the country's longest running campus literary awards. Judges this year include National Artist Virgilio Almario, Citilo Sautista, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Jan Cruz Reyes, and Oscar Campo-

The Parangai Hagbong is given to Thomasian men and women of letters for significant contributions to literature. Previous recipients are Rolando Tinio, Rogelio Sicat, Genoveva Edroza Marute, National Arrist for the Visual Arts J. Elizalde Navarro (for art criticism), Erma Curzon, Reynaldo Duque, Ponciano Pineda, Lilia Pablo Amansec, Bienvenido Lumbera, and St. Delia Coro-

Nolledo was a multi-awarded fictionist, essayist, playwright, screenplay writer, and editor known for his powerful prose style. He edited the literary section of the Varsitarian in 1957 when he was a journalism student of the old Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, now Arts and Letters. His novel, "But for the Lovers," was published in the US and has been acclaimed by American critics. In 1963, he received the TOYM (Ten Ourstanding Young Men of the Philippines) Award for Literature Last March 6, he died in California of pancreatic cancer. He was 71

Nolledo's champion was National Artist Nick Joaquin, who was also noted for his prose style and his poetry, fiction and other writings that





POET Ben Villar Condino



NICK Joaquin, National Artist for Literature and Journalism



WILFRIDO Nolledo

conjure the Philippines' tich Hispanic past. Both Joaquin and Nolledo were doing highly exquisite magical stories even before Latin Amencan "magic realism" became the

vogue. Joaquin was also a pathbreaking journalist and historian. Joaquin did not finish formal

schooling, but UST awarded him an Associate in Arts certificate for his essay, "La Naval de Manila," which won in a contest sponsored by the Dominicans. Last April, he died of card ac arrest. He was 87.

Condino was the first Bikol poet to receive the "Makata ng Taon" award from the Surian ng Wikang Pambansa twice-in 1951 and 1967 He received the 2003 Gintong Pamana from the Gintong Pamana Awards Foundation for excellence in aterature

A UST Journanem graduate, Condino was a reporter of the Bagong Buhay (Taliba) and editorin-chief of Mabuhay of the DMHM Publications in 1972. He escaped to Canada with his family when he was b.acklisted by the Marcoses in 1972. They lived there for 27 years.

His collection of poems, "Puera Biro," was published by Paracale Press in 2003. His poetry has been highly praised by Efren Abueg and Bievenido Lumbera

Writers' Night at UP

Writers' Festival, "Parang Kailan Lang..." on Dec. 6-10, this year. It coincides with the College of Arts and Letters Week.

The Writers' Festival is also in commemoration of the formal establishment of the UP Creative Writing Center (as the ICW was ongmally called), 25 years ago, on June 1, 1979

The Writers' Festival will formally open with an exhibit at Galeria 1 and 2, Bulwagang The exhibit will feature the different pro-

grams, projects and activities of the ICW There will also be an anniversary bookfair in front of the Pulungang Recto, also at the

Bulwagang Rizal, with major publishers participating. The UP Press coordinates the book-. The centerpiece will be on Dec. 7, Writers'

Day.

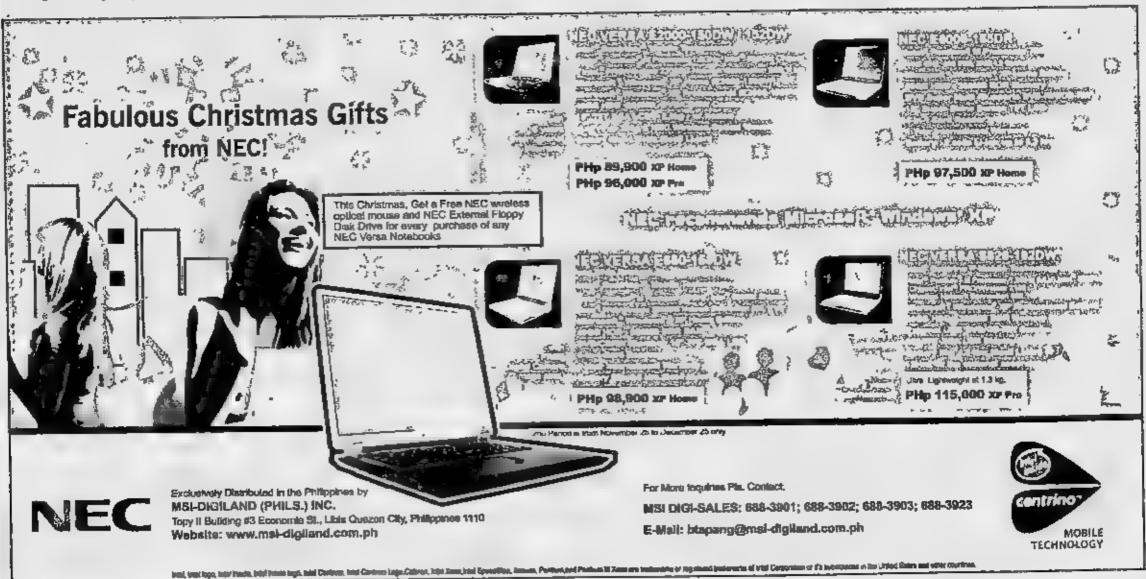
It will start with a pupper show by the Teatrong Musat ng Pilipinas (TMP) at the

LIKHAAN: The UP Institute of Cre- Teatro Hermogenes (lagan, Bulwagang Rizal, ative Writing (ICW) will host the from 9 a.m. to 12 m. Prof Emeritus Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio, former CWC director and now ICW adviser, is the TMP's resident play wright-director.

It will be followed by the presentation ceremonies of the Fourth Madrigal-González Best First Book Award, won by Ma. Luna Sicat-Cleto, with the novel "Makinilyang Altar" (published by the UP Press); and a roundtable discussion on the future of Philippine literature, with emphasis on emerging forms and gen-

From 6 p.m. onwards, the Writers' Night, the traditional reunion and Christmas Party of writers, will be held at the Balay Chanselor, Garcla Avenue, UP Campus, Diliman. Fortythree batches of workshop fellows-from 1965 to 2004—have been invited to join the festivities. Music will be provided by mostly alternative artists and bands—mostly singers who are also writers. There will be a minimum entrance fee to raise funds for the ICW.

Starring this year, the Writers' Night will be celebrated on Dec. 7



Love's centenary

By Ralph Semino Galán Contributor

THE MANY forms and formulations of Pinoy love and loving are collated as lyrical utterances in "One Hundred Love Poems" (Quezon City: UP Press, 2004, 128 pages), edited by Gémino H. Abad and Alfred A. Yuson. Subtitled "Philippine Love Poetry Since 1905," the collection contains 100 poems by 100 poets arranged in chronological order according to the poer's birth year. The composition or publication date of each poem is also provided in what could only have involved a laborious archival work on the part of the editors.

Some of the "c.assic" Filipino love poems in English are included in the anthology, such as Angela C. Manalang-Gloria's "Soledad," Jose Garcia Villa's "I Can No More Hear Love's," Trinidad L. Tarrosa-Subido's "You Shall Be Pree," Francisco Arcellana's "The Other Woman," and Carlos A. Angeles' "Landscape II," among others.

But the limitation of representing one poet with one poem becomes apparent when an informed reader searches for favorite pieces memorized by heart. Absent in the collection are Manalang-Gloria's "To the Man I Married," Edith L. Tiempo's "Bonsal" and Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta's "A Kind of Burning," to name a few. (Like Manalang-Gloria, Tiempo and Dimalanta are represented by other poems: "Mystical Union" and "The Time Pector," respectively.)

In his introduction to the book, Abad, premier poet, declares that the poems encompass the three man.festations of love. Eros, Amor and Agape

It is not my duty as a critic to perform the tedious task of sorting out the poems according to their particular passionate or compassionate affiliation. The best I can do is point out to prospective buyers of the book the most fulfilling poems, in terms of both form and content, which in the exemplary pieces are perfectly interlaced that it is difficult to trace where one ends and the other begins, like a finely woven tapestry of sights and insights, words and worlds.

Among the poems written by the more senior writers, the following deserve a second reading: Bienvenido Santos' "In Fair Exchange," NVM Gonzalez's "A Need for Love," Nick Joaquin's "The Innocence of Solomon," Tita Lacambra V Aya.a's "Echo," Myrna Peña-Reyes' "Ruth Was Not Penelope," Clrilo F. Bautista's "Song," Ce-sar Ruiz Aquino "Kalisud à la Rizal," Merlie M. Alunan "We Kept a Jarful of Keys," Marra PL. Lanot's "You Tell Me," Alfred A Yuson's "The Fate of Rain," Elsa Martinez Coscoliuela's "Adam's Rib," Jaime An Lim's "Breathing without Accompaniment" and Anthony L. Tan's "Letter to Ling.

Remarkable

The more remarkable pieces written by the younger writers (poets born in the 1950s onwards) include Ricardo M. de Ungria's "Shrimp Moves," Marjorie M Evas-co's "Elemental," Jose Y. Dalisay's "To June, On Her First Winter," Ma. Fatima V. Lim-Wilson's "Crossing Dreams," Luisa Igloria's "Rings," Isabelita Orlina Reyes "The in between," Danton Remoto's "Rain," Antonio L. Jocson's "Utsu Mountain at Okabe," DM Reyes' "Affection," R. Zamora Linmark's "The Muse This Time," J. Neil C. Garcia's "Ma.inche," Ruel S. De Vera's "Moonlight Sonata," Lourd Ernest H. de Veyra's "hi-density," Conchitina R. Cruz's "Bedtume," Carlomar Arcangel Daoana's "Negros Museum, June 13," and Angelo Suarez's "Flood."

But my personal favorite of the entire compendium is Eric T. Gamalinda's "Las Ruinas del Corazon," a narrative poem chronicling Queen Juana the Mad's "adamant desire" for her dead husband, Philip the Handsome. "She wanted to possess him entirely, and since not even death/ may oppose the queen, she found a way to merge death and life// by sating a piece of him, slowly, lovingly, until he was entirely/ in her being. She cut a finger and chewed the fragrant skin,// then sliced a thick portion of his once ruddy checks. Then she ate/ an ear, the side of a thigh, the solid muscles of his chest,// "

This intense, cannibalistic mode of loving is reminiscent of "an ancient Zoroastrian legend of the first parents of the human race," mentioned in Joseph Campbell's illuminating book, "Myths to Live By." The profound affection of these progenitors for their offspring has brought them to this bizarre incident. "and there were born to them two children, whom they loved so tenderly and irresistibly that they are them up. The mother ate one, the father ate the other; and God, to protect the human race, then reduced the force of man's capacity

for love by some ninety-nine per cent." As a subject matter, love is inexhaustible, despite the countless poems and verses written about it. For this fourletter word is universal and personal, bitter and sweet, sacred and profane, painful and pleasurable, clusive and allusive, both. In his introduction to "The Penguin Book of Love Poetry," Jon Stallworthy observes that "there are almost as many definitions of love as there are poets, because most poets, like most other men and women, have something to say on the subject ... Like any other actors in the human come-

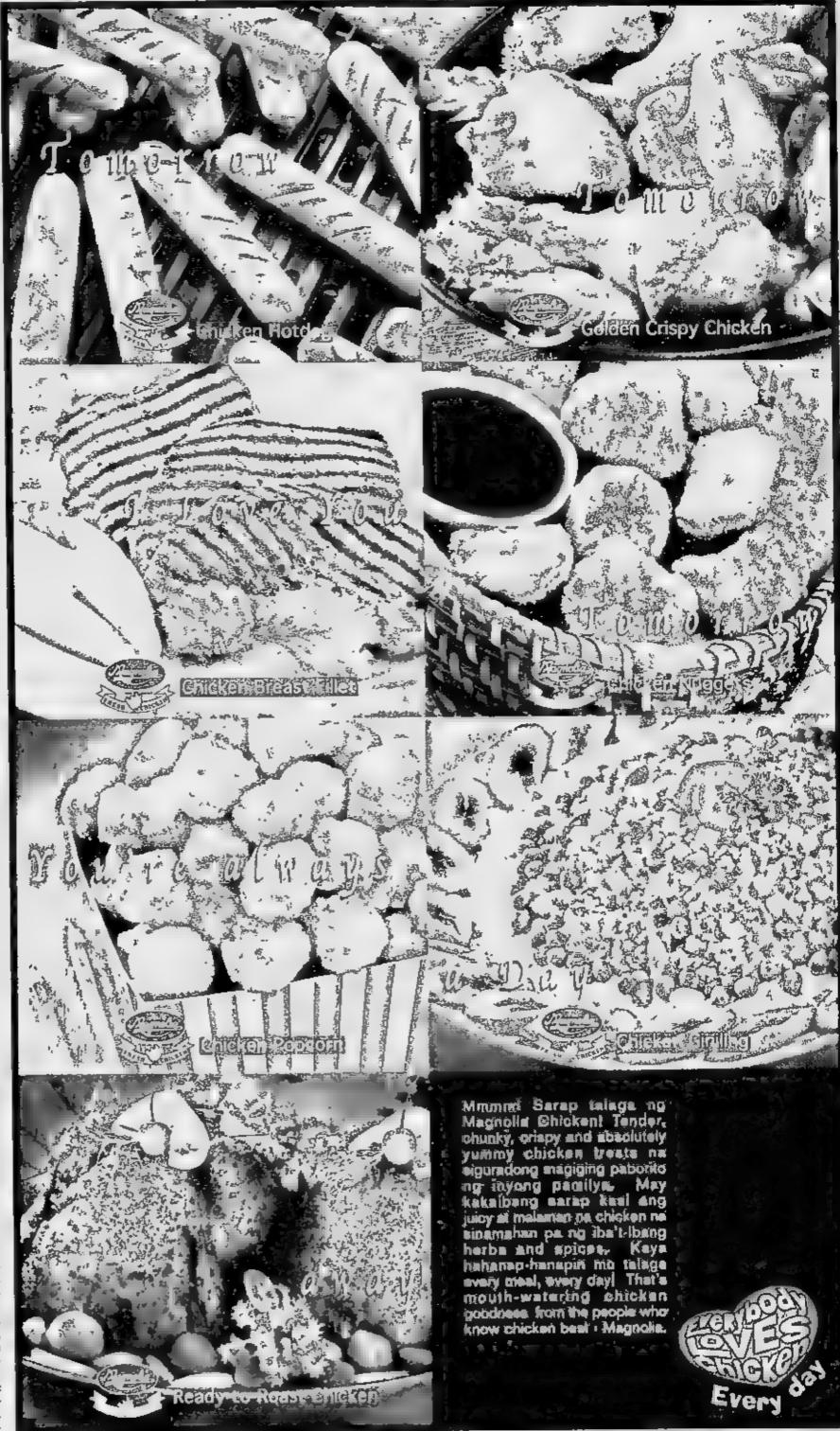
dy, they speak most piercingly when they speak most personally, and because they speak personally their statements are as various as their fingerprints."

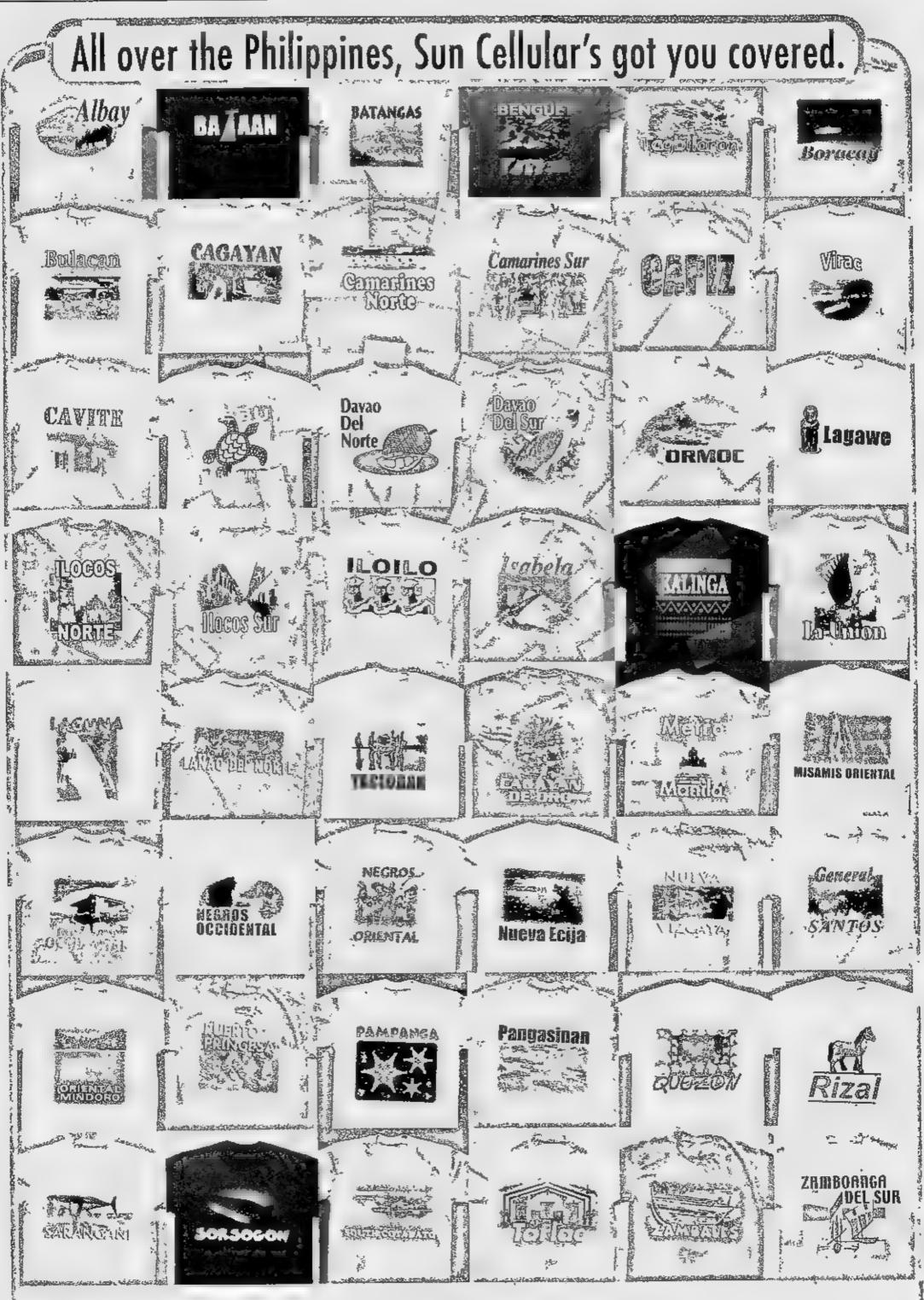
The poems in the new collection, therefore, are testaments to the diversity of love as versified by some of the best Filipino poets writing from English

Every hopeless romantic and lover of good literature out there should buy a copy of the book, for it is reasonably priced, since it "is part of the UP Jubilee Student Edition designed to bring the best of Philippine literature within the reach of students and the general public." But this volume of verses is far from being cheap in terms of production design. In fact, it has a very professional, university-press look Special mention should be made of the elegant rose-red cover design of Migs Villanueva, an accomplished writer herself.

The poems in this collection are testaments to the diversity of love as versified by some of the best Filipino poets writing from English







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Ballet Philippines mounts a darker 'Peter Pan'

By Joyce C. Abaño

ALLET Philippines has a great adventure in store for dance enthustasts this December as it restages J. M. Barrie's "Peter Pan" with a highly modern flair in "Neverneverland."

According to the collaborators of this contemporary dance piece, this "Peter Pan," choreographed by Alden Lugrasin, is not the traditional full-length ballet nor is it taken from Broadway versions. The dark satire of Barrie's book and the idea behind the Disney film "Return to Neverland" propel this ballet ver-

"We've followed a portion of the storyline of Disney's "Peter Pan II" where we see Wendy's daughter, Jane, but we've changed most of

the story along the way," Lugnasın sa.d. "A number of people have been asking me, wata na ba kayong bagong piece?' So we thought we needed some thing new."

Lugnasın said he had just been to Bali where he handled a workshop and the experience made him realize how advanced Filipinos are in contemporary dance 'That's why I wanted to do this Peter Pan with a modern twist," he said.

To fit its highly contemporary idea, BP costume designer Mel Aguilar said Peter Pan will not be wearing his usual green garb.

"I've designed a purple and gray costume for Peter to wear said Aguilar "It's still a happy color but more different and besides, we're trying to veer

away from the tradinonal Peter Pan and seeing the old green costume is totally traditional "

Since It's not a traditional full-length barlet, the dancers won't be dancing on pointe.

"It's going to be shown in a modern genre, everything is done terra terre. . Off ground.... it gives everything earthy, realistic look and gives dancers and the way they dance more weight," said BP artistic director Au-

gustus Damian III. Despite its chailenging budget, BP promises an exciting and fun-filled adventure for the entire family.

Peter Pan will be alternately played by Clark Rambuyon Christine and Crame; Tinkerbelle Kris-Belle Paclibar and Canssa Adea, Captain Hook by Insh Abejero and Mamangun; Jane by Candice Adea and Rhea Dumdum, and Wendy by Camille Ordinario-Joson and Hanedy Sa.a.

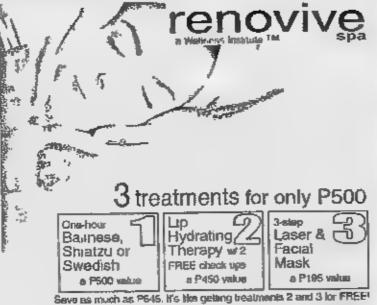
The show will run from Dec. 10-15 at the CCP Main Theater

For ticket and schedule inquiries, call 8326011.



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TINKERBELL (Kris-Belle Paclibar) and Peter Pan (Clark Rambuyon) do a pas de deux after the battle with Captain

Hook and the pirates

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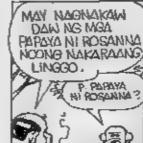
MARYIN







PUGAD BABOY



MASAMA DAW ANG LOOB N'YA DAHIL AANILI'N NA SANA N'YA NEXT MEEK YUNG MGA PARAYA N'YA. PA HINDG YUNG MGA PAPAYA NI ROSANNA?

BY PM, JNIOR SINAMANTALA DAN TAMANG-TAMA YANG MUNG MAGNAKAW PULLITAN NATING INIHAW NA LIEMPO MINNIE AT YOYDNG PARA KUNIN YUNG MGA PAPAYA N'YA MARAMI AKONG DALANG ATSARA Chan cann KAUTT HILAW BA

BY PATRICK MEDONNELL

BABY BLUES







BY JERRY SCOTT MUTTS







ATOMO AND WEBOY

OKAM

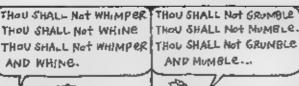
HEY, WEB. YOU

WANNA HEAR

My poem?

THOU SHALL NOT WHINE THOU SHALL NOT WHIMPER AND WHINE.







BY LYRA GARCELLANO DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

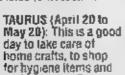
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a philosopher You're also practical and resourceful. You make the best of what you have. You know when to hold and when to fold. This ability to be pragmatic takes you in many different directions, increased solitude in the year ahead is likely because there is something important you have to learn or

Birthdate of: Steven Wright, comic/actor; Dave Brubeck, musician, Agnes Moorehead, actress. LEO (July 23 to Aug 22). Female relatives







to tidy up your hathroom. Buy those little items you've been out of for too long.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). Your nurturing instincts are aroused You have a strong desire to take care of some-



los na somethina.

body. Naturally, this works very well if you re with children today CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might try to hold on to something very tightly today

It could be a posses-

sion or even be a family member. Try to adopt a freer attitude toward



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to sure about spending don't do it. You pro -bly have a strong attechment to

lings, especially, will be meaning-

ful. Discussions lend to be emo-

Sept. 22): If you're not your money today, then

are significant loday.

Time spent with sib-

something right now You feel you have to have it. (Do you?)

SOCIAL SMOKER AT

PAG-COMMUTE?





BEN



DAILY CROSSWORD



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By Nelle G. Becker

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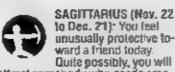
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Saturday's Puzzle Solved

- 41 Chicago hub 53 in one piece 46 Hooling criss 48 _ Beach, SC 55 College sports org 49 Bob Hope film, "Cat Me
- 57 Winter kest 68 Toward the 61 Day's merch 59 Requisite 60 Feudal seri

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct 22): The Moon is in your sign today. This gives you a greater need to belong to others and talk to people. You need a lot of nurturing, (Warn your clos-

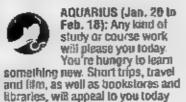
SCORP10 (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You will benefit from solitude today Try to figure out If you can squeeze some time to be by yourself. You can't be all things to all people all the time



12/8/04

Quite possibly, you will attract somebody who needs emotional support. (Others can sense you're ready to give IL) CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). You might

display more sensitivity to those you work with today. Certainly, people notice you more for some reason. You're quite skilled working with the public today.



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): All your reactions to others are more intense today. That's because this is a

rather emotional Moon for you. (The Moon is in a passionale part of your chart for the next two



PERO LAM NYO, NAY, NAPHISIP TOLOY AKO. PAG SIMUOT NO NGA TONG SKIRT NA MEDIO MAIKSI E PEDENG SITSITAN AKO NJAJG MGA TAMBAY SA (ABAS, MAYSISMIS NA MALANDI NUUE MEA TSIS-MOSA SA KANTO O BAKA MAHIPUAN PA NG MANYAK SA JEEP



BY MANIX ABRERA

LOYEKNOTS





TULPOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



'Peter Pan' musical at SM Megamall

Joseph the Dreamer," "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," "Little Merma.d" and "Mr. Noah's Big Boat," livens up the holiday season with a musical production of "Peter Pan and the Time Machine." Performances will be at the SM Megamali Cinema 10 on Dec. 11, 12,

"Peter Pan and the Time Machine" is an action-packed, fantasy adventure Christmas musical that will take audiences through different time zones—to a present-day shopping mall, to Santa's Toy Shop in the North Pole, to Victorian England where Scrooge lives, and to

Two kids, Wendell and Mikee, and their nanny robot Robbie are whiling away Christmas Eve. Al. of a sudden, a strange intruder, Captain Hook, enters the kids' living room through a time machine. Captain Hook is looking for the "best Christmas present ever." The children are not able to comprehend the concept of Christmas, let alone produce a

Captain Hook kidnaps Wendell and takes him into the time machine. Mikee and Robbie call for help. Just then, Peter Pan, the pixie hero from Never Never Land, enters through the time machine. Determined to rescue the boy, Peter Pan, along with Mikee and Robbie,

TRUMPETS, the theater company behind travel through time in hot pursuit of Captain

'We want to make 'Peter Pan' a Christmas holiday treat for the entire family so we've dropped the usual P1,000 ticket to only P350 and P250," says Audie Gemora, Trumpets'

"That way, moviegoers can opt to watch a live theater production for a change. Watching a live theater performance will be an unforgettable, invaluable experience especially for their kids."

"Peter Pan and the Time Machine" stars Chevy Mercado as Peter Pan, Jun Ofrasio as Captain Hook, Sam Concepcion as Wendell, Cheska Ortega as Mikee, Roden Araneta as Robbie the Robot, Lawrence Martinez as Santa Claus, Analiza Zialcita as Mrs. Santa, Mayen Bustamante as the Angel, Joann de la Fuente as Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, and David Cosico as Scrooge, among others.

The show's book and libretto is by Jame del Mundo, direction by Audie Gemora, cheoreography by James Laforteza, sets by Tata Tuviera, and costumes by Eric Pineda. Robot design is by Liz Batoctoy, and the flying machine is courtesy of Eric Torrente.

Performances are at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Call 6335010, 6362842, 9115555 or 8919999.



SAM Concepcion as Wendell, Cheska Ortoga as Mikee, Chevy Mercado as Peter Pan and Roden Araneta as Robbio the Robot



RUMPETS TREETDANCE CONTEST

High school and college dance groups can register for the Trumpets Playshop's First Streetdance Competition until Dec. 15. Participating dance groups must be composed of 8-10 members, all male or all female or mixed. The group must prepare a four to fiveminute dance routine of three to five dance medleys of pure streetdance tunes. They must obtain a recommendation letter from their school. Registration fee is P1,500 per group. Winning dance groups will be featured with the latter's 20th year anniversary concert early next year. Call 6362842 or 6335010.

Singalong parish marks centennial

THE PARISH of St. Anthony de visita was destroyed during the liberation of Padua in the old district of Singalong in Manila launches its celebration for its 100th year of foundation with a solemn High Mass at 6 tonight.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales will, bless and officially open the Jubilee Door amid the singing of the Te Deum, followed by ■ solemn processio

Parishioners will gather as early as 4:30 p.m., for the parade of barangay participants. The St Anthony de Padua parish was carved out of the Sta. Clara de Montefalco Parish in 1905 and given to the care and administration of the Capuchin Fathers, who al-

so established a school. The concrete church built to replace the old

Manila. A new church was completed in

The Capuchin Fathers turned over the administration of the parish to the Archdiocese of Manila on April 1, 1995. Jame L. Cardinal Sin, then the Manila archbishop, appointed Msgr. Jose Clemente Ignacio as the parish's first diocesan priest. In 2001, he was replaced by Msgr. Rolando R. de la Cruz, who is also the treasurer of the Archdiocese of Manila.

The year-long celebration of the parish centennial grants a plenary indulgence to participants. The decree from the Apostolic Penirentiary granting the plenary inclulgence will be read during the Mass.

The parish will present a program featuring Chrisimas songs from its grand choir and an MTV of the parish centennial.

Powers talents show their wares

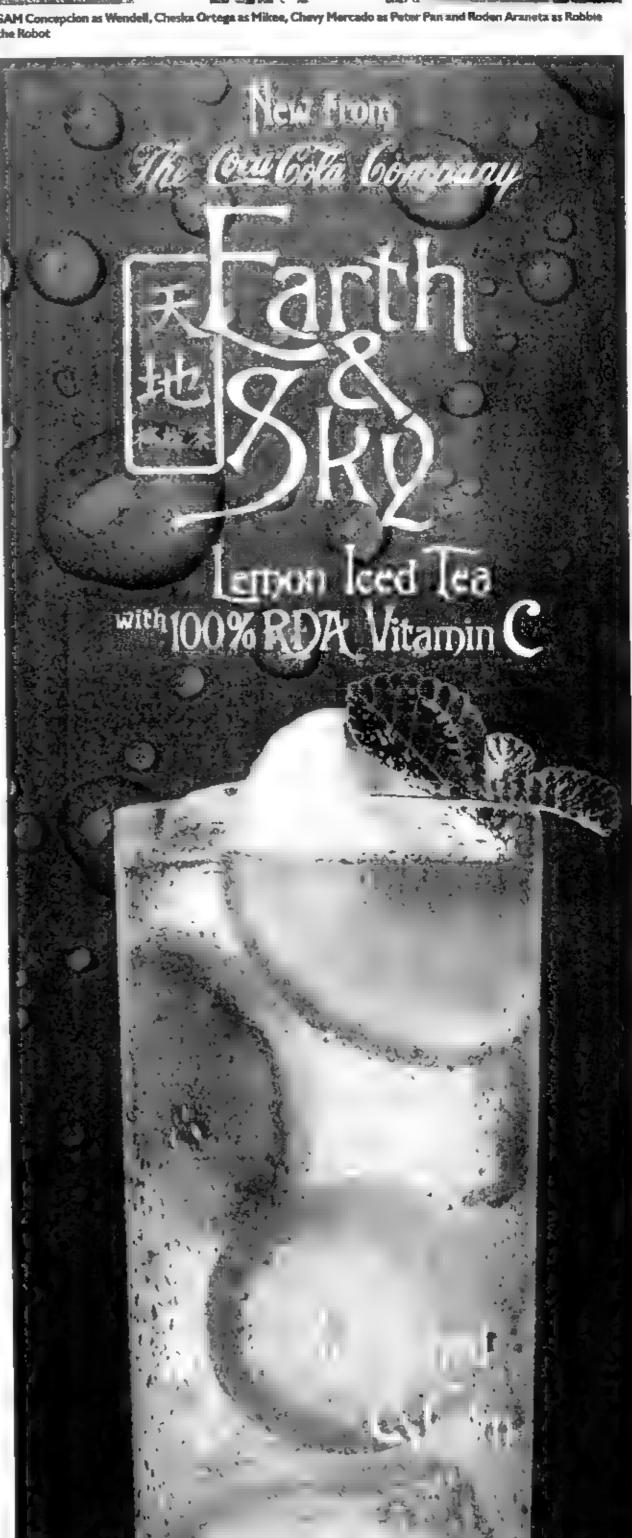
JOHN Robert Powers will hold an exclusive invitational activity to showcase the talents of the students in acting, hosting, modeling, singing and dancing on Dec. 10 and 17, 6 p.m. at the 4/F Casmer Bldg, on Salcedo Street, Legazpı Village, Makatı City.

Talent agents have been invited to the show. This activity will show off the craft the students learned the John Robert Pow-

In Asia, the Philippines in particular, since 1984, John Robert Powers is still very much in the business of making it happen

With Manila as the regional Asian head quarters, JRP schools flourish in Thailand. Indonesia and Japan. The JRP School in Makan alone counts with the total enrollment of about 2,000 students, most of whom transform amazingly at the end of their course, according to Marivic Padilla-Catala, JRP international director.

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NEARLY three generations of Philippline theater artists, including Lea Salonga (center), lustily bid Bibot goodbye.



"I WANT to show kids who had never seen theater, and people who could never afford to go to London or Broadway, the classics in their original form."

By Cora Llamas Contributor

IFTY of them gathered in a close circle outside the Magallanes Chapel where their mentor's ashes were interred. The youngest was in her late teens, the oldest probably in his 50s. Many were still active in the business, some had been absent for a long time.

Eyes closed in deep concentration, their voices rose in solemn unison, making the closing credo of the Broadway musical "Camelor" almost a hymn. The singing of the melody seemed perfect and, given the situation, sounded inspiring.

But before the last note hit, acting choirmaster and director Michael Williams shook his head in dissatisfaction and said, "No, guys, wait, you don't stretch it until at this point..."

And the 50-odd musical theater artists comprising three generations of Repertory Philippines took their cue and started again. The next day, they would pay tribute at the Onstage Greenbelt Theater to the company's founder and artistic director, Zeneida "Bibot" Amador, who passed away on Nov. 28 because of cancer.

The actors' attention to detail and perfectionism are a Rep trademark. The over 100 artists who had trained and worked in it during its 38-year history fondly refer to the sleepless nights and the screaming sessions pressed upon the tardy and the unprepared as battle scars.

Yet, uldmately, in spite of the occasional tensions and semi-ri-valries, the Philippine theater community has always remained a close-knit, outspoken family.

Amador, along with Rep cofounder Baby Barredo, was one of its most hardworking parents.

Many of Amador's "artistic" children have grown from teenagers who caught the passion of the stage to become professional theater actors, directors, production managers and designers.

Three eventually put up their own companies: Audie Gemora and the family-friendly Trumpets; Bart Guingona of the intellectually provocative Actors' Actors Inc., and Monique Wilson's feminist New Voice Company.

Then there is the doorway to the international arena which Rep's training opened for many actors, starting in 1989 with nine members who landed roles in Cameron Mackintosh's "Miss Saigon," including Junix Inocian, Pinky Amador, Victor Laurel, Williams, Wilson, and Lea Salonga, who won the Olivier and Tony awards as the title character.

Wilson, who appeared in her first Rep play at age 9 and stayed until her departure for "Saigon" 10 years later, acknowledges: "My real training came from Rep. That's 10 years of my life, my formative years when my attitude and value systems were being formed. When we did 'Sargon,' our sense of professionalism and standards of working were already there, London allowed us to hone it on a different level. That was our edge. Cameron could throw us at the deep end of anything and we could do it."

Hard knocks

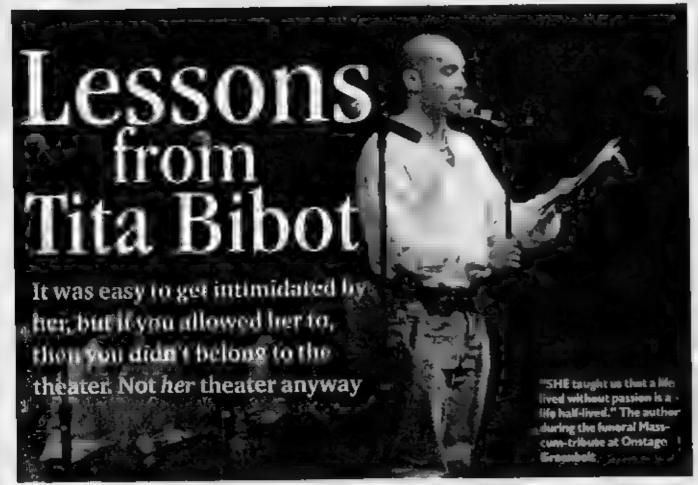
Like ber fellow theater pioneers Rolando Tinio and Tony Mabesa, Amador came from the old school of hard knocks which demanded passion, excellence and commitment. An actor who comes to a rehearsal without studying his lines would be bawled out. One single second of tardiness would find the director waiting impatiently outside the

During the '70s and '80s, when the absence of alternates compelled a performer to play his role every single time for the entire run, only the "dead and dying" were allowed to be absent. Acrors burning with fever gulped their medicine and marched bravely to the stage.

Struck with bronchitis during "The Fantasticks," Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo recited the lyrles on stage. Not even the 1989 coup halted "La Cage Aux Pollies," The across demanded from THE LEGACY/FI

0,0950108 am tò 11 pm, Fri. PRESENTED TO THE PARTY.





By Bart Guingona Contributor

ENEIDA "Bibor" Amador's reputation preceded her, a reputation which was certainly warranted given the timber and considerable volume of her baritone. Whenever she was within a mile of yelling distance of us, we quaked in our shoes.

Imagine my apprehension the first time I went to an audition-late, I might add—for my first play with Rep, 1983's "Fiddler on the Roof." She looked at me under furrowed brows, the kind of look that wilts the fainthearted, and, as I understood later, was also the look that was meant to weed out the men from the boys-or, in this case, the true artists from the disettantes. Anyway, she looked me in the face and coolly asked me-and I remember it word for word—"Son, do you like the theater?"

"Yes, ma'am," I said "That's sir to you," was her grumpy re-

It was easy to get intimidated by her, but if you allowed her to, then, well, you just didn't belong to the theater. Not her theater, anyway.

Since then, for the next nine years 1 spent with Rep-my most formative as an artist-I came to understand that in Rep, one could eventually graduate into her circle of peers in whom she confided,

with. This was the realm in which one saw how quick she was to get hurt, how quick to try and be alarmed. How vulnerable-in short, how human and en-

Never personal

But being the professional that she was, she was never personal with anyone even in her most violent tirades. I've often joined her for a social meal or cocktail after being dressed down during rehearsals only a few minutes earlier.

In the interest of pacing, about which she was meticulous, I have listed a few things we all learned along the way:

The things she taught us. 1. Time is short. And I don't just refer to her time here on earth. Brevity and efficiency were the hallmarks of all Rep productions. Even as I speak now before you. I can hear her snapping impatiently at me, practically tearing at her salt-andpepper hau, "Pace it! Pace it!"

2. Be a professional in whatever you do. Be the best janitor. Be the best actor. And just be! There's no acting please in the theater.

3. Never take yourself too seriously. Otherwise no one else will. Take theater seriously but never yourself. Roselyn was telling me the other night how, between shows of "Nunsense," she was playing a game with Jamie Wilson and Dennis Lagdameo who were both just lods then. They joked around, shared meals and outings were trying to name as many variations of



LEADER and follower



Nim, etc., when she suddenly came up with Flashing Nun and lifted her habit. Luckily for them, she had her customary shorts and loose shirt underneath.

4. Corollarily, what other people think about you is less important than how you think of yourself. It was her certainty about who she was and what she had to do that made her such a commanding presence. She was equally adept at selfdeprecation as she was at retrieving chunks of wisdom from her vast store of knowledge. And she expressed herself in the most witty, articulate language you might ever hear-either in King's English or in Quezonian Tagalog, and, either way, liberally peppered with the most exquisite profanity. Her imaginative use of invectives and cusswords brought to light a new art form-what I call "crearive insultry."

No small roles

5. That there are no small roles, only small actors, and plays are a form of play that needs to be taken seriously. She made us want to convince the rest of the world it was a serious undertaking-because it kept us in touch with our own humanity. That indeed, nothing was more satisfying or noble, or worthy than the dogged pursuit of the truth in a rehearsal hall in order to purvey that same truth to an audience. I remember her telling me once, years ago, that she had been invited to run for office by some political party. She told me this story, ending with swear words for the kind of compromises she would have to make as as a poutician-bleep bleep na poutician na bleep bleep na yan... Give me the theater any day!"

6. That show business is 50-percent show and 50-percent business. How Rep.

nuns as possible -- Singing Nun, Cooking has survived through all sorts of political and economic crises practically unscathed have got to be a testament to her impeccable business acumen, coupied, of course, with Tita Joy's (Virata) extraordinary zeal.

7. That lipstick is an essential accessory and comfortable fnotwear should be a non-negotiable given. Now, If that isn't feminine and masculine and truly astonishing all at the same time, I don't know

8. That honesty, in direct opposition to pollucal expediency, was another nonnegotiable. She always said she was not here to win a popularity contest. She would be the first to shamelessly shed tears when moved, the first to yell in despair when desperate. It was this kind of honesty that might have seemed offensive to some but which many of us aspired for And I think the world would be better off if we all had even a fraction of that honesty.

9. That a life lived without passion is a hie half-lived. And that to love is meaningless if it isn't invested with passion. I guess that's why the theater made so much sense to us. She made us see it as the path of least compromise—a path that offered us redemption from the corruption, mediocrity and bargain-basement cynicism of the world outside our rehearsal halls. The fire of her own passion burned so brightly in her undying and unconditional love for Tita Baby (Barredo), for aterature, for traveling, for food and wine, and yes for mahjongg, that we who have seen the light of that flame have ourselves walked away

 That the only excuse for being ab-∞ sent from a show or rehearsal was af-youwere dead or dying, I guess that gives you a convenient excuse, Tita Bibot.

The legacy of Zeneida Amador

From page #1

the soldiers guarding the Meralco Theater barricade, "Let us in! The show must go on!"

Yulo recalls that "Bibor's passion for theater was contagious. It was almost sacred. You do not do anything to disrupt the hard work that was going on. Every performance was delivered as if it were your last. Bibot made us strong and prepared us for the vulnerabilities actors experience on stage."

If Amador was a disciplinarian onstage, she was second parent and close friend off it. She was a cook who prepared dishes for the cast members at her home, a shoulder to cry on during relationship problems, and a proud professor who wrote letters of recommendation for her students entering International grama school.

Even the most intense disagreements never stayed for long. Gemora, who became estranged with Amador for some time, made peace with his old teacher at her deathbed.

"I had been wanting to come for some time but I thought that seeing me might worsen her cond.tion," he says. "But during that final weekend, Bibot's assistant told me that she had forgiven me a long time ago, and that she saw our disagreement as business, never personal. At her bed, when I said I was sorry, Bibot just said, 'Wala no iyon.' After I prayed for her, she thanked me and went to sleep."

Love for written word

Amador, who acquired an AB English and a Master's in Literature from UST, was also a teacher who loved the written

After finishing postgraduate courses at New York's American Academy of the Dramatic Arts and teaching briefly at University of Southern Dakota, she taught English and Literature at St. Joseph's College in Quezon City.

Beyond the daily grind of rehearsals, Amador would hold literature classes that gove her young actors a deeper appreciation of Shakespeare and Sopho-

Guingona, who entered Rep right out of UP, says that "it was her love for language and literature that influenced me the most. Her analysis and characteriza-



LEA Salonga, Rep's most famous and accomplished product

tion were brilliant."

These same classes awakened the pen of Luna Inocian, the Rep "all-aroundbackstage-and-PR" person who became co-writer of Trumpets' 'The Little Mermaid" and "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

"Where did [learn [wrfning]? By reading and watching the other plays. I needed a model of experience that had been tested throughout the centuries," be

Inocian's comment echoes Amador's answer to criticisms leveled against Rep's preference for English-language foreign material. Rep was founded during the years leading to the First Quarter Storm when nationalist sentiments ran high.

Several years ago, Amador told this writer, "Rolando and Tony were already translating the classics. Peta was proneering original Filipino plays in Tagalog. My vision is different. I want to show



TONY Amador, Bibot's brother

kids who had never seen theater, and people who could never afford to go to London or Broadway, the classics in their original form."

Left unspoken was Amador's lament that Rep never received any award or recognition, nor its core of actors any form of scholarship, because of its choice of language and

Late recognition

The recognition did come at Amador's deathbed: The National Commission on Culture and the Arts' (NCCA) highest, the Dangal ng Haraya Award, "symbolizing our people's deepest appreciation for your invaluable training of calents that have gamered critical acclaim and brought prestige for the Philippines in the international scene, particularly in the West End and Broadway."

Spearheading the tribute, ironically and fittingly, is NCCA executive director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez. Fittingly because Alvarez is Amador's peer who fought in the same battle, promoting national theater at a time when there was no audience, venue, and funding to speak of. Ironically, because Alvarez's company, Peta, in its creating original Filipino work, went a totally different direction from Rep.

Alvarez and Amador, who had known each other since youth as Fr. James Reuter's theater protégés, kept their friendship and murual respect despite the differences. Upon her appointment last October, Alvarez planned to give awards of recognition to women who had contributed to national theater, Amador among them.

Learning that her old friend was fighting cancer fast-tracked the process; the

NCCA executive director did not want to give it posthumously.

In the end, the formal letter of recognition was read to the dying theater director. The award ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 28

People think that we were doing different things, but it was the same," Alvarez points out. "We were working for the arts. Theater is a diverse community. In training people, Bibot contributed magnificently. Her commitment to professionalism was a discipline that she ingrained in the people that she trained, And if you're training your writers and people, there is a wealth of dramatic and literary heritage that you can learn from. There are eternal values and norms that a [will] enrich their own creative norms."

As for the English-language factor, Guidote adds, "With globalization, you ready need [it]; to be multi-lingual is

"Saigon" Manila producer Dong Alere, who assisted in the Mackintosh auditions, says he "will always salute Bibor for having that vision to perform theater In English, Without the training that these Filipinos had in English-spoken theater, we would not have been successful in casting the Filipinos of 'Saigon.' I ascribe to her the single-handed development of English-speaking theater and actors. Rep has served as the training ground for many of our actors in the local and international scene."

Inocian, one of many artists who'd like to explore this bigger picture, admits, "I don't want my work to stay in the Philippines. I write for a Pinoy audience, but I'm looking beyond."

Theater is a tough communicate, whether you're vying for your place in the man against Brits, Americans, Singaporeans, and Malaysians in their own country, or sticking it out in Manila with its dwindling sponsorship and still young audience.

But the "Camelor" credo is apropos: Like King Arthur passing on the memory of that "one brief shining moment" to the would-he knight, Amador's vision will continue through her creative progeny.

As Gemora puts it, "She taught us that theater can be an industry that we can build. Many of us who have pursued it as our careers-Trumpets, whatever else 1 am doing at this moment, all of that-we are Bibot's legacy."



FR. JAMES Reuter, S.J., officiating at the funeral Mass





REP'S "The Wizard of Oz," with the Scarecrow (Jejie Esguerra), the Cowardly Lion (Oliver Usison), Dorothy (Liesl Batucan) and Tinman (Niccolo Manahan)

Rep stages 'Wizard of Oz'

Repertory Philippines (REP) actors, choreographer Jaime del Prado, set designer Johann Quisumbing, and costume designer Edgar San Diego to stage the musical stage version of the seasoned in Reps Giode Theater at Onstage, Greenbelt, Makati.

REP subscriber performances are on Dec. 11 and 17 at 8:00 p.m., and on Dec. 19 at 2.30 p.m.; Tickets available at the Ayala Cinema ticketron. Call 8870710.

DIRECTOR Baby Barredo has as-sembled a cast of seasoned in Rep's Globe Theater at On-



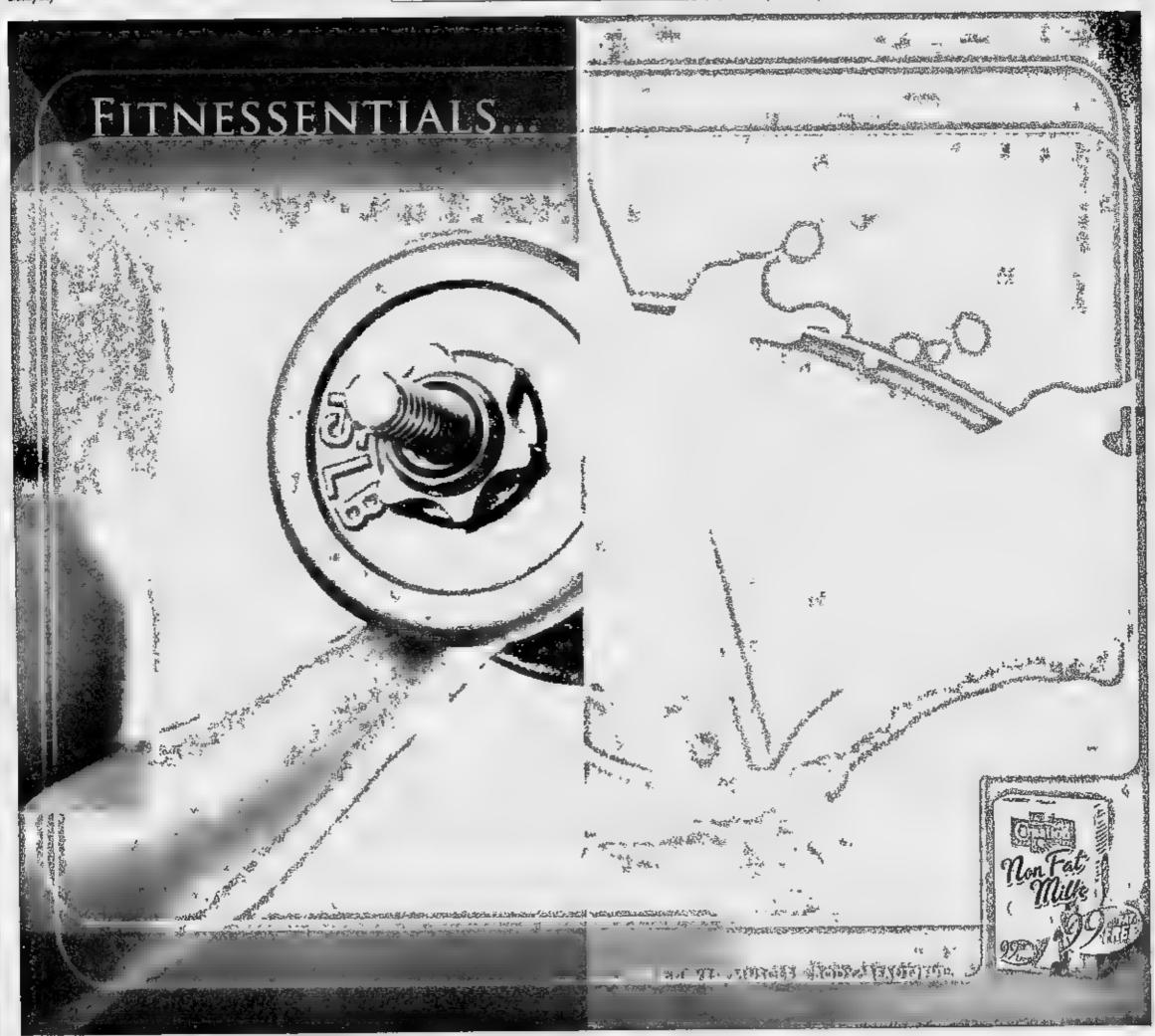
THE WICKED Witches of Oz (Ayam Barredo, Ana Bitong and Geny Batuyot)



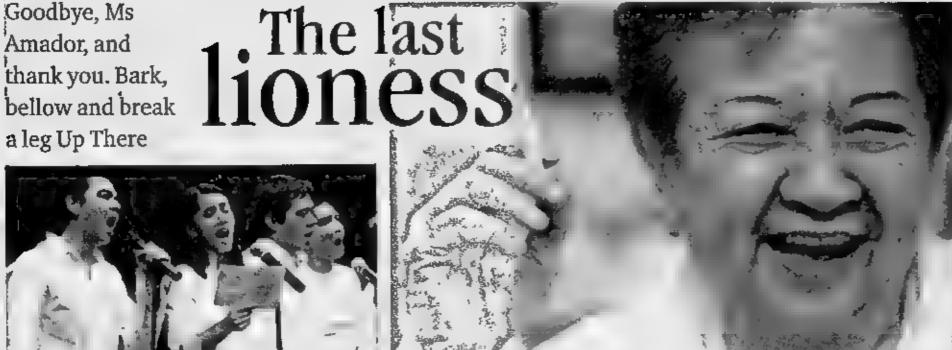




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Goodbye, Ms a leg Up There



REP bables JM Rodriguez, Menchu Lauchengco Yulo, Michael



VEN now we remember, clear as day, the very first Repertory Philippines production we watched.

It was "Stop the World I Want to Get Off," at the Insular Life Auditorium in Makati in 1991. We were 21 years old. The hall was small, the sears half-empty, the temperature arctic-but the musica, itself was a hoot.

We don't remember now who played Littlechap, the lead role, but Joy Virata was a not playing a variety of characters, including a Russian lady with a bad case of the rolung r's.

To a fresh-faced bick from the province on his first anxious months in the city, the show was both escape and education—a boundary-altering experience swimming in color and melody. Every Rep season promised four such plays to savor-strange, funny, discombobulating stories to make us feel more sophisticated than we had a right to.

It had us by curtain call.

Formidable |

Afterwards, exiting, we saw her Zeneida Amador, Rep's founder and artistic director, was standing by the entrance, in light blue shorts, plain shirt and

She was smaller than we had thought. But yes, pretty much as formidable-looking as the stories had made her out to be. We were too intimidated to say "hi." Mortals don't say "hi" to the gods, do they? And certainly not to one as fierytongued as Ms Amadoc So we siunk away.

It was always "Miss" Amador, Even as we would spot her-dressed always in shorts and sneakers-whenever we watched Rep plays (later at the William J. Shaw Theater at Shangri-La Plaza), we didn't mind being awed every time. Bibot sounded too presumptiously chammy. For a pillar like her, Ms Amador rang just fine—though we could imagine her scorning the fuss.

That awe was out of respect for her heroic work in the theater. Season after season (37 years and counting), with virtually no government support, Rep has slogged on by presenting Broadway plays and musicals, at a time when nationalist theater is deemed more crucial, given the country's dire sodal straits.

Its choice of English-language material is often dended as elitist and irrelevant. But as its founder once explained in a TV interview, Rep is dedicated to honing Filipino talent, professionalizing theater and giving audiences value for the money they fork over.

"If doing your best and working with the best is being 'elitist,' then we can't help that," she said-or words to that effect.

Thuly, who could argue with the product? In its heyday, a Rep production nearly always guaranteed high production values, sharp acting, sparkling voices if it was a musical, and the glearning, unfakable savvy that came with equal parts hard practice and proud passion in the craft of theater.

Marnmoth show

We look back and realize that some of the happiest moments of our theater-going life have been spent watching Rep shows.

"Les Miserables," of course, comes first to memory. That mammoth production, staged at the Meralco Theater by special arrangement with a grateful Cameron Maddintosh (for the raft of fine Filipino talent be posched from Rep for his "Miss Saigon" productions worldwide), still ranks us one of Philippine theater's watershed achievements—perhaps nev-

er to be equalled in these beggarly

We were in the audience when Rep took its first tentative steps at the Shaw Theater, coming up with an uneven but spiritedly mounted production of Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods," Later, we thrilled to "Once on This Island," and the leads were so good that we recall their names until now: Gladys Silverio and Nonle Buencamino.

We also saw a tiny Arza Seguerra dancing and singing as one of six Motown-charged chorus girls in "Little Shop of Horrors."

Among the Rep regulars, Menchu Lauchengco Yulo sang a bravura "The Ladies Who Lunch" in "Company," Coccy Laurel grooved like one hippie fella in Toseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Ranon Alonzo danced up a storm in everything from "Camelor" to the recent "Fame," and Baby Barredo (Ms Amador's Lietume muse and partner) was a brassy presence in, among many others, "Gigi" and

The straight plays, too, were just as polished. Bart Guingona haunted us as John Proctor in "The Crucible," Michael Williams was a side-splitting Tartuffe in Mollere's play, Lyon Roque cross-dressed to the nines in a play based on "La Cage Aux Folles," the cast of Michael Frayn's "Noises Off" was a perfect symphony of well-timed exits and entrances, and Celia DIaz-Laurel (with Joy Virata and another veteran actress) was radiant in a comedy whose title we now fall to recal, but not its bittersweet

Rep often failed at Shakespeare. We saw a grating "Julius Caesar" and a wan "Romeo and Juliet." Brecht and Ionesco were never tried. And when it mounted its first homegrown musical ("Miong"), the results were midding, deriva-

But give it Neil Simon or Woody Allen or Tom Stoppard anytime and you're guaranteed to go home

Foghorn voice

In one Simon play, "Lost in Yonkers," Ms Amador played the crabby Jewish grandma terrorizing her two young wards. It could be argued she was playing herself she was curt and brutal, but also gruffly affectionate. We can still remember her voice-big, blowsy, like a foghorn blast.

No wonder generations of theater people quaked to that sound. Such was her notonety as a harddriving, hell-raising director adamant about fulfilling a certain set of theatrical standards

Once, rehearsing "Evita" with the rest of the cast, a friend of ours found himself at the receiving end of that legendary temper. Flustered at the tirade (and a bit hard of hearing, as he had only one ear functioning), the poor guy tried to smile. To which Ms Amador bel-lowed, "Stop smiling or Pli smash your face in!"

Perhaps our friend's only consolation was, he had joined an illustrious company of actors who had been, at one time or another, the object of Ms Amador's tough love: Lea Saionga, Monique Wilson, Miguel Paustmann, Subas Herrero, Mitch Valdez, Pinky Amador, Jonjon Briones, Leo Martinez, Junix Inocian, Noel Trinidad, Jay Glorioso, Audie Gemora, Chinggoy Alonzo, Liza Infante, Leo Valdez, Bonggoy and Patty Manahan, Noel Rayos, Liezi Batucan, Anna Bitong, Maya Barredo, Gia Macuja, JM Rodriguez, Carla Martinez..., Read the names and realize the breadth and depth of the legacy this great lioness of Philippine theater has given the country.

And the world, too, with the big strides Rep-trained acrors have made not only on Broadway and the West End, but on stages in Asia, Europe and Australia.

Touchstone moments

We count two touchstone experiences in our youth that have made us write incessantly about theater today.

The first, in high school, was watching Slning Kambayoka's "Ha-lik sa Kampilan," which opened our eyes to the richness of our ladigenous theatrical heritage. The second was entering that small hall at the Insular Life building and surrendering ourselves to first-class 'elitist" theater.

We write because, without our knowing it, an artist's surpassing vision had once reached across the proscenium erch and touched us. enlarging our paltry world in ways We dare not count now.

So-goodbye, Ms Amador, and thank you. Bark, bellow and break a leg Up There.

B-mail the author at geadis@inquires cont.ph



Nothing to be afraid of By Ruben Cruz Jr.

RODERICK Paulate is wasted in this film...

All the atmosphere and spooky sets in the world cannot compensate for "Pa-Siyam's" inability to generate genuine horror.



...and so is Cherrie Pie Picache

Contributor

REGAL Films' "Pa-Siyam" is an artsy ghost story that mostly takes place inside a house, which is one of the bestlooking horror sets we've ever seen. From the moment Roderick Paulate's Nilo shows up on its doorstep, that house shricks of terror.

"Pa-Siyam" is stylishly spooky and the presence of evil is so palpable, we could almost touch it. Unfortunately, all the atmosphere and spooky sets in the world cannot compensate for the movie's inability to generate genuine

The problem with "Pa-Siyam" is that it gives the audience nothing to be afraid of. It tries to scare by building a mood and succeeds at it, too. Okay, we're ready to be scared. We anticipate moments that would cause our skin to creep, shocks that would throw us off our seats. But we just keep waiting. For two hours, we watch the characters being frightened and distressed, and we ask, "But why?"

From the start, the house appears to be reeling from high electricity rates—in spite of local tradition that dictates all lights should be ablaze when an occupant dies. This family seems bent on wallowing in darkness, perhaps the better to scare the audi-

A few "boo" moments

The dead person is Nilo's mother. Her body lies in the living room of the old and decrepit ancestral home. Rows of chairs are neatly lined up, but there are no people around oth-REVIEW er than Nilo's four siblings and a niece. No one was present to witness the mother's last days, indeed not her last few years. Apparently, she was left in the care of the family's kasambahay after her children chose to leave home and go their separate ways.

We sense that something is not quite right about the way she died. There's tension as her children discuss burial matters and the traditional novena for the dead, or po-siyom, that follows. Something, of course, is bound to happen before the pa-siyam is over.



DIRECTOR Erik Matti with his cast, in the "stylishly spooky" ancestral home

threatens to full the viewers to sleep. We wait for those "boo" moments to jerk us back to wakefulness, and admittedly there are some, but not enough to overcome long minutes of redium. There's a lack of energy in the proceedings that not even an intriguing twist and the expected final ghost encounter can overcome. Watching "Pa-Siyam" is like listening to radio talent Kuya Cesar tell a ghost story.

Gross, not scary

In general, our standards for horror movies are pretty easy to meet. A few prickles of dread here, some jolts of terror there, and we're satisfied. We don't usually go into a horror movie expecting a highly literate plot, but the plausibility of a ghost story depends upon a little coherence. "Pa-Siyam" has an anxious indeterminacy that proves hard to sus-

comes cluttered and confusing. For Instance, in one of several scenes that's more gross than scary, Cherry Pie Picache's Denise (one of tion. No one here is remotely inter-

tain, and as its story progresses, it be-

But the story progresses so slowly, it the five siblings) wakes up to find human excrement and vomit scattered all over the room. She irrationally accuses her sane and normal teenage daughter for causing the mess. Now, why would anyone dump shit all over the bedroom and then sleep in it? Anyway, Denise hysterically calls for help. In the next scene, though, we see her washing up nonchalantly in the bathroom, and after that, she meets up with her siblings and doesn't say a word about what just happened. They even sleep in the same bedroom come night time. (Apparently the production people cleaned up without consulting the screenwriters.)

We know that characters in horror movies are supposed to be a little stupid, but we need to develop some kind of bond with at least one of them. This is hard to do with "Pa-Siyam," because the roles are so hollow, and the screenplay is dead on arrival. The movie wastes the talents of such actors as Paulate and Picache, who are always a plus in any produc-

esting or sympathetic, except maybe

About that ghost

Oh, yes, about that ghost. There's nothing quite like a malevolent presence that implacably inflicts evil on everyone, but for a mother to do so on her children, no matter how much she's been wronged by them, is a little hard to take. It is made known, of course, that the mother here has been less motherly than most-cruel at times, and even turned crazy before she died. She may also have had a very good reason to be angry. Still, a murderous mother is guaranteed less of an acceptance factor, horrorwise, than most villains in the genre.

There are a few more elements in the storyline that further robs it of credibility but we want to stop nitpicking. Suffice it to say that the only way anyone could possibly enjoy this movie is to shift all mental faculties into neutral and just drift through it.

Halloween has come and gone and Christmas has turned the corner and yet Regal Films is still trick-or-treating? Sadly, "Pa-Siyam" is more trick than treat.



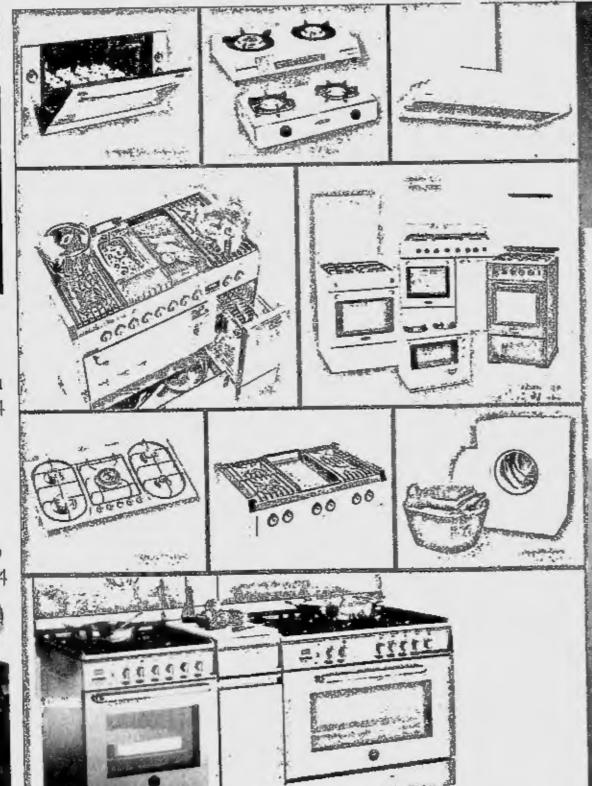


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Sarah Geronimo among People Asia's celeb picks



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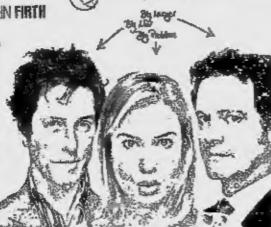
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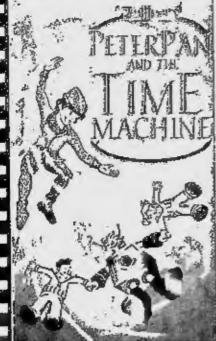
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Featuring the voice of (of "The Leve of the Rings") CHUCKY TIFFANY JENNIFER TILLY REDMAN SEED WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

OCTOBER last year, JAM 88.3 launched a show that it called JAM Sessions, to give unsigned amateur talents a chance to be heard. Young students, professionals, as well as people who simply like playing music, flocked to the studio for auditions.

Since then, Sunday night was never the same again at the station—for both the hopeful musicians and the listeners. It wasn't surprising that many of the groups who turned up developed a fan base through the show. Thus, JAM Sessions made a big difference in live music on the FM band.

The show's phenomenal success inspired BMG Records executives to turn portions of its best editions into an album similar to "MTV Unplugged," Fourteen of the individuals/groups who performed in the show were picked to be included in the album eventually titled, "Radio Live: The JAM Sessions Recordings.

These singers come from different backgrounds, with only passion for music as common denominator. Wynnford Martillana, a licensed commercial pilot, sings his version of John Mayer's "My Stupid Mouth" in the album. Myles de la Fuente, prior to the program, taught music and performed in various gigs and theater shows. She was also a semi-finalist in GMA-7's "Star for a Night" talent search. In the "Radio Live" album, she does a cover of Natalie Imbruglia's hit, "Torn."

Benzi Robledo and Sofia Arga of the Group Benzi and Sofia and Ara Pagaling are still college students, but they sound like seasoned professionals with their versions of "Shifting Sand" and "Hands to Heaven." Groups like Pancake 80 and Licketysplit were regular fixtures in popular gig spots but were never heard on radio before JAM Sessions. They do "Not This Time" and "Wish" for the album. Other tracks are: "Cool With You" by 3rd Degree, "Big Yellow Taxi" by Jeff's Crib, "Who Will Save Your Soui?" by Jeazel, "Wonderwall" by Bryan de Leon, "I'm in Love" by Firelane, "Cry" by Lucid, "Ikaw" by Paul Flaviano, and "Queen of Hearts" by Liteswitch.

"Radio Live: The Jam Sessions Recordings" also includes the single "Same Ground" by Kitchie Nadal. It is now available in CDs and

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MBCtops polls

MANILA Broadcasting Co. (MBC) stations dominated all five industry polls conducted this year by the Kadio Research Council (RRC), survey arm of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP).

The surveys were held from June to September in Baguio, Iligan, Zamboanga, Tacloban and Tuguegarao. Flagship station

DZRH, which broadcasts via satellite to 20 relay stations nationwide, topped the Tuguegamo poll. Tacloban figures

showed DYVL and DZRH posting a onetwo finish among AM stations. DYVL dinched the top slor with audience shares of 14.1 percent

Thursdays through

Sarurdays and 8 percent Sundays. On the FM band, DYTM Love Radio Tacloban broke records with audience shares of 49.8 percent Thursdays through Saturdays and 76.1 percent Sundays.

The Tacloban survey showed that, Thursdays through Sundays, more than seven out of every 10 listeners are mined in to an MBC starion.

Data from Baguio City showed that Love Radio-DWMB is the top FM station in the area, and DZRH relay station City led all competitors on the AM band.

In Iligan City, Yes FM-DXTL bested all other stations.

Zamboanga, FM-DXHT Hot emerged No. 1. It is MBC's pop-format station in the South,

Nolte, guard in rape rap

LOS ANGELES-Actor Nick Noite has been sued by the parents of a teenage girl who said she was raped during a party in his absence at his California home after she was drugged by

his security guard.

MONDAY,

According to the lawsuit, which was filed Nov. 29 and made public on Friday, Nolte was involved in efforts to cover up the videotaped assault and was aware, or should have known, that his Malibu home was regularly being used for parties where drugs and alcohol were furnished to minors.

The suit also said the unnamed security guard was employed by Nolte despite the actor's "advanced knowledge" of the man's *propensity... for providing alcohol and/or drugs to minor children" in order to coerce or solicit sex from them.

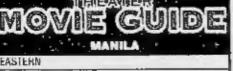
Nolte, 63, and the security guard were listed as defendants with three others, including Nicholas Woodring, who was convicted in March of having sex with a minor in connection with the January 2003 incident described in the suit. That minor was the Los Angelesarea girl bringing the suit, who was then 15.

"The victim in this case wants to make sure that nothing like this ever happens again at that house," said attorney Philip Dunn, who represents the girl's family.

Dunn said Woodring, who was then under 21, served 180 days in Jail for his guilty plea, in which a more serious charge of rape by use of drugs was dropped. A spokesperson for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said no one else in the criminal case was charged.

Dunn said the security guard's identity had yet to be ascertained. Two other unnamed defendants were described only as being underage at the time-one of them a resident of Nolte's home.

Nolte's publicist said in a statement: "The incident happened nearly two years ago when Mr. Nolte was not at the property. It is our understanding that the individual responsible has been held accountable. Mr. Nolte was at the time, and still remains, concerned for the young lady's well-being."



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GUARANTEED SEATS

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ALEXANDER 11:45, 3:15, 6:45, 18:15

NATIONAL TREASURE 11:20, 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 19:20

THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:30, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 0:15, 10:45

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ALEXANDER R13 12:50,4:00,7:10.10:20

NATIONAL TREASURE GP 1150.2:25,5:00,7:35,10:10

BRIDGET JONES 12:50:3:10.5:30.7:50.10:10

CHRISTMAS WITH THEKRANKS 12:00.1:55,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50

SEED OF CHUCKY 12:00 2:00,4:00. 8:00.B:00.10:00

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ALEXANDER FS 11 30 AM 3 00PM 6 30PM FS 11 30AM 2 00PM 4 30PM 7 DOPM LIME 9 30PM (GP; LMF 10 00PM (R-13) BRIDGET JONES

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1 ALEXANDER • THX 11:40 3.00 9:20 9:40 2 ALEXANDER

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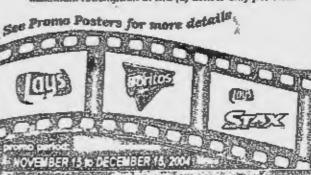
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Karel Marquez: 'Ronian is just a friend'

By Marinel R. Cruz

VJ AND commercial model Karel Marquez has asked her younger brother and not Ronian Poe-son of action king and former presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.—to be her escort when she celebrates her 18th birthday on Dec. 21, according to the pretty teener herself.

"It's better that way. Kevin is 12," Karel told loquerer Entertainment at the Bobson Apparel press conference last week. "Actually, I'd [rather not] have an escort because I want a birthday party that's very casual and laid back."

Ronian, or Ron Allan, in an interview with Korina Sanchez on "Rated K Handa Na Ba Kayo," admitted that he had a crush on the daughter of singer Pinky Marquez. People started seeing them together days later, like when Karel performed with the Onda Latino band at Dish last September.

But Karel insists there is no "relationship" with Ronian: "He confessed that he used to like me back when we're not yet barkada, but he didn't court me or anything. I've forgotten how I reacted to that confession. He knows how I feel."

Suddenly, friends

By Remy Umerez Contributor

early '50s.

engagements."

Pure energy

Karel says she and Ronian met at a apparel, along with Aga Muhlach and

MARK Bautista, finalist in the 2002

edition of GMA-7's talent search,

"Star for a Night," still can't believe he

is playing "Lastikman," the superhero

created by the late Mars Ravelo in the

hearsay, or believe what I had been

reading in the tabloids," he re-

counts. "I wanted to hear it straight

from the horse's mouth. I figured

that my manager, Ms Veronique del

Rosario Corpus, daughter of Boss

Vic. should be the one to break the

news to me. We spoke regularly,

and all we discussed were singing

iseum, Vic del Rosario approached

him and said, "O, Mark ikaw na ang

Lastikman (you are Lastikman)." He

was speechless, he tells us on the set

of the movie in Kamuning, Quezon

Director Mac Alejandre discusses

the character once portrayed by Vic

But after the recent Night of the Champions show at the Araneta Col-

didn't want to listen to

Mark can't believe he's

'Lastikman'

In fact, the pretty VJ says, FPJ's son is not even courting her

friend's party two years ago and have remained friends since. She recalls: "When I first found out that he was FPJ's son, I didn't believe it. I even thought it was a joke. I even asked him, 'so Poe rin ang apelyido mo?' And we both laughed."

She adds that she often ran into Ronian subsequently at friends' homes or in gimmick spots. "Suddenly, we were barkado. The last time we went out was several days ago, when we had coffee at Starbucks Rockweil. Everybody thinks we're a couple because we're together all the

time, but we're not." Other than preparing for her birthday party, Karel is occupied with regular appearances on "Seasons of Love," "MTB," and "ASAP Mania" on ABS-CBN, as well as "Myx" and "Wazzup Wazzup" on Studio 23. She is also an endorser of Bobson

Japoy Lizardo.

There's so much to do, though I'd rather concentrate on work and school," says Karel, a Marketing freshman at Thames International Business School. T also want to get back to my favorite sport, wake boarding."

lapoy's dream

Because of her commitments, Karel can only make time for wake boarding once every two months. Jon Paul or Japoy, on the other hand, attends tackwordo training twice a day.

My biggest dream is to win an Olympic gold for the country," he says.

Japoy, 18, has been training since he was 8. In 2000, he won his first gold medal at the Korea Taekwondo Open. He brought home a silver medal from the US Taekwondo Open in 2002 and two gold medals from the National Taekwondo Competition last year.

A sophomore at the De LaSalle University taking up sports studies, Japoy signed a contract with ABS-CBN's Talent Center last September and has attended several personality development workshops since.

"I want to focus on acting after I'm done with the workshops," says Japoy. "For me, acting is as challenging as being



THE YOUNG man knows how she feels, according to Karel.

Sarah Geronimo makes 'People of the Year' list

> SARAH Geronimo has added an- Mark Bautista. other feather to her cap.

People Asia magazine has included the Teen Princess in its "People of the Year" list for the fifth anniversary issue that will be launched during a special party at the Manile Peninsula on Dec. 13.

The list includes such political heavyweights as President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, US President George W. Bush, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte; and business leaders like Ben Chan, Lucio Tan and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

In the show biz category, Sarah's right up there with Lea Salonga, Kris Aquino and Jasmine Trias.

As expected, Sarah is thrilled. "I can't believe it," she

says. "It's such a big honor." On account of her accomplishments alone, Sarah de-

serves to be in that list. Only 16, she is a compleat entertainer. She has a quadruple platinum album.

She starred in sold-out concerts and a TV series, and done studies. Her mother, Divine a slew of endorsements.

She recently embarked on a new endeavor, hosting ABS-CBN's "Morning Star" together with the gang from the hit concert, "Night of the Champions"-Rachelle Ann Go, Christian Bautista, Erik Santos and

But success has simply not gotten to her head. "I'm still the old Sarah," she says.

At the same time, she has fully adjusted to her stature in local entertainment.

Incredulous

"Sometimes I'm still overwhelmed," she says. "I say to myself, is this really happening?"

Sarah was catapulted to fame after winning in this year's "Star for a Night," the talent search launched by Viva TV. Her winning song, "To Love You More," became an instant hit. Her single, "Forever's Not Enough," was also a chart buster. Her first album, "Popstar, A Dream Come True," became a platinum four times

Her second album, "Sweet Sixteen" is now out in the market. She is also finishing the filming of "Lastikman," Viva Pilms' entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival this month.

Still, she finds time for her Geronimo, never fails to remind her of the importance of schooling. Sarah is enrolled in Angelicum College's home study program. "One thing's sure," Divine says. "She doesn't lag behind regular students."

GREAT THINGS are happening to chums Sarah and Mark, They're two of the hardest-working young stars today.

Sotto: "Lastikman has more powers than other super heroes. But his enemies also possess great powers, which they all got from the same tree that healed the protagonist Adrian Rosales and transformed him into Lastikman." The villains have been limited to

two, Alejandre says. "One is Alfonso (John Estrada) with his son Reden (Danilo Barrios), descendants of a werewolf clan. The more hideous antagonist is Lastika, played by Cherie Gil, who was mistaken for an aswang. The townsfolk brutaliy killed her children, and she is bent on exacting revenge."

As an actor, he says, Mark is "pure energy," and has perfect comic timing. "He listens to instruc-tions and is not reluctant to ask if there's anything he does not understand. He is very focused. I can sense that he is very determined to succeed."

Alejandre reveals that the original choice to play the role was Hero Angeles, but that negotiations have fallen through.

A singer first

Today, the scene Mark is doing does not require him to don the tight-fitting costume. It takes place at the breakfast table, where Adrian's father and a relative argue about the existence of Lastikman, while the young man quietly lis-

After the take, we resume our conversation. Mark confides: "All 1 really wanted was to sing and earn money. But if Viva thinks I can act, eh di okay lang. They have been in the business for so long, managing talents who became big stars."

He used to dream a lot, he says. "Whenever I saw posters of new singers, I wished I would someday see my photographs up there, too, on Edsa billboards, or on the back cover of some fan magazine. I worked on my singing by joining various bands. I attended an acting workshop conducted by Peque Gallaga. I read somewhere that an aspiring talent should know how to sing, dance and act. My agenda was to be a famous balladeer like Martin Nievera."

Only 22 years old, Mark may in fact become the next Plnoy show biz idol, based on his current visibility in the concert circuit. The success of Night of the Champions brought him to the United States, where the show was subsequently

booked. He believes he "bonded well" with the champs-Sarah Geronimo, Rachelle Ann Go, Christian Bautista and Raymond Mana-

Simple guy

Mark and Sarah are, in fact, Viva's answer to the love team of Hero Angeles and Sandara Park. In "Lastikman," he may be a superhero, but he can't muster enough courage to declare his love for Lara (Sarah Geronimo), his childhood

In real life, Mark has his eye on Rachelle Ann. "But she has turned me down, because her priority is her singing career," he says.

The simple guy from Cagayan de Oro currently resides with an uncle in Quezon City. He has bought a new cor, and a piece of farm land in his native province. Not bad for someone who had less than P500 when he journeyed to Manila in a cargo ship two years ago to join a television talent search.



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